MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 MARCH 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

On 2 March Iraqi naval forces destroyed Iranian oil installations in Nowruz oilfield as well as five Iranian naval "units," including three tankers, INA announced citing an Iraqi military spokesman.

Syria

Commenting on reports that the Soviet Union has sent early warning radar aircraft to Syria, an authoritative source in Damascus said the announcement of such reports is "a threat to Syria" and is consistent with the U.S. and Israeli propaganda campaign, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The source asserted that Syria is determined to secure all "adequate means" to defend its sovereignty and independence against a "systematic campaign of threats" waged by Israel and the United States and is determined that the Israeli "massacres" in Lebanon will not be repeated in other areas of the Arab region.

An AL-BA'TH article reviewed by Radio Monte Carlo described Secretary Caspar Weinberger's criticism of the presence of Soviet SAM-5's in Syria as U.S. "encouragement for Israel" and a "threat to Syria's security." An ATH-THAWRAH article also reviewed by the radio stressed that Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens is preparing for "military aggression against Syria, supported and encouraged by the United States." A Damascus radio commentary reiterated that recent statements by U.S. officials indicate that the Reagan administration is "paving the way for a new aggression against Syria." The radio affirmed that Syria will not succumb to any threats and reserves the right "to answer" any agggression to which it might be exposed.

Lebanon

Khaldah Talks -- During the 1 March Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks at Khaldah the Lebanese delegation maintained a solid position in face of Israeli intransigence while the Israelis again insisted on the establishment of observation posts and a 45-km security zone, Beirut radio reported. The Israelis also announced their rejection of proposals made by Philip Habib, the radio said. IDF Radio reported that the subcommittee on security arrangements made progress and that agreement is near on the question of integrating Major Sa'd Haddad's forces into the security arrangements. On the other hand, no progress was achieved on normalization and the political subcommittee was still unable to agree on principles, the radio noted. The Israeli delegation spokesman meanwhile accused Lebanon of trying to render "meaningless" the agreement to hold negotiations, according to Jerusalem radio.

Arens Visit -- Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens visited IDF units in Lebanon on 1 March, Jerusalem radio noted.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

During their 2 March talks in Ismailia, Israeli and Egyptian negotiators will attempt to reach agreement on interim arrangements for the Tabah area pending a final settlement of the disputed area's status, Cairo and Jerusalem radios reported. The two sides will also discuss bilateral procedures for implementing conciliation in accordance with the peace treaty, Cairo radio said.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the "striking hand" of the revolution is still strong and that the PLO will not lay down its arms despite its sincere desire for peace, SUNA reported citing 'Arafat's remarks to the Numayri Higher Military Academy in Khartoum.

In another development a PLO military spokesman asserted that Palestinian fighters carried out three successful operations against Zionist military targets in Israel over the past 24 hours, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. One of the operations involved a charge that exploded in a Jerusalem military vehicle parking lot damaging many vehicles and injuring an Israeli guard.

Oil Affairs

The special OPEC meeting to determine a new price and output structure may be held on 5 or 7 March and a solution to the current crisis is "imminent," Saudi Petroleum Minister Yamani declared in a French television interview reported by AFP. Yamani favored a $4 per barrel price cut, bringing the Saudi market price to around $30, but warned that countries which have invested heavily in alternative energy projects will face serious problems if prices fall as low as $26 per barrel.

Afghanistan

At least 25 Afghan soldiers and civilians were killed in Kabul during 21-22 February missile and bomb attacks by "resistance forces" against government and Soviet targets, AFP reported citing Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad.

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YASIR 'ARAFAT CONTINUES VISIT TO SUDAN

Meets Jordan's 'Arar

JN010954 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Mar 83 p 1

[Exclusive report]

[Text] Khartoum -- Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, Sunday evening met with Sulayman 'Arar, National Consultative Council [NCC] speaker and head of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the SSU National Congress.

The two sides discussed the current Arab situation and the special, distinguished relations between the fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. 'Arafat asked 'Arar to convey his greetings and good wishes to His Majesty King Husayn.

The meeting was attended by NCC members Hani Abu Hijlah and Mahmud al-Kayid.

Lectures on Beirut Battle

JN011706 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (SUNA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the organization will not relinquish the military option and will not lay down its arms despite its sincere desire for peace, which means to the Palestinian people the establishment of their independent state. 'Arafat added that a nation that relinquishes the military option capitulates to its enemy and cannot conclude a peace treaty with it, because peace cannot be achieved by those who are weak and who kneel; their destiny is capitulation.

The Palestinian leader, speaking at the Numayri Higher Military Academy here this morning, pointed out that the Palestinian revolution has carried out more than 360 operations against the enemy since the departure of its forces from Beirut up to the time of the PNC meeting and is preparing for longer battles against the enemy.

'Arafat pointed out that the Palestinian revolution was able to reorganize, reequip, and regroup its forces. It was also able to move 7,000 fighters with their weapons to Aden and to return them to their positions within 48 hours after participating in the military parade in January. 'Arafat added that military men know the significance of moving 7,000 fighters from several positions to another place thousands of kilometers away. He said that this is a reminder to Begin, Reagan, and the like, that the striking hand of the revolution is still strong.

'Arafat declared that the enemy did not capture important weapons from the Palestinians in Beirut. It captured a huge arms cashe in an area south of Beirut belonging to an Arab regime [Libya] which kept it for its "green advance." Struggler 'Arafat, who was delivering his lecture on the battle of Beirut, expressed his sorrow because those in charge of the weapons in the cache did not know anything about them and could not even destroy them at a time when we had a critical need for every bullet.

It is noteworthy that the Israeli authorities have said that they will sell the weapons that they had captured to an African state.

Holds Press Conference

NC021102 Paris AFP in English 1029 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, March 2 (AFP) -- Provided Egypt "disentangles" itself from the Camp David peace arrangements with Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is willing to normalize relations with Cairo, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said here Tuesday. "Acting on the Arab consensus, the PLO will keep its distance from Egypt as long as Egypt remains involved in Camp David", Mr 'Arafat told newsmen. But he was hopeful he would be able to visit Egypt "in the very near future".

Peace in the Middle East could be attained only after Palestinian rights were restored, Mr 'Arafat said. "No peace, no stability and no settlement shall be reached in the region by jumping over the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, exercise self-determination and establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital", he insisted. The only options were intensification and escalation of military operation against Israel, or a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue, the PLO chief said.

He said the PLO had carried out 355 operations against Israeli targets in the past four months, but he did not elaborate.

As regards the peaceful option, Mr 'Arafat said he recognized and committed himself only to the plan unanimously adopted by Arab heads of state at their summit in Morocco last September.

ALGIERS VOP: 'ARAFAT TO ATTEND NONALIGNED SUMMIT

LD012353 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] A Palestinian source stated today in Amman that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, will arrive in New Delhi on Sunday at the head of a delegation to take part in the meetings of the nonaligned states which will begun on 7 March in the Indian capital. The source said Brother Abu 'Ammar will hold meetings with Arab and foreign leaders during his stay in New Delhi to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the Zionist enemy's aggressive war against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab areas.

The source noted that Brother Abu 'Ammar will make a speech at the conference in which he will review the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, the barbarous massacres by the Zionist enemy forces in Sabra and Shatila camps in Lebanon, and the dimensions of the policy of settlements and expulsion of Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab areas.

'ARAFAT VIEWS RESULTS OF PNC SESSION

PM011621 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Feb 83 p 16

[Ahmed Fattani report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Algerian press on 22 February in Algiers]

[Text] ['Arafat] "I would like to say a word to all Algerians, to these revolutionary people, to those who welcomed our revolution from its birth, well before the first bullet was fired.

"And when it was, I remember, the newspaper EL MOUDJAHID spoke for the Algerian masses and leaders through an editorial hailing the armed launch of the 1 January revolution in the name of the 1 November revolution.

"Once agian, with our revolution passing through a crucial phase in its existence, it seemed difficult from the state for this Palestinian congress to achieve this success and to produce positive results without the solicitude of President Bendjedid and our other Algerian brothers. They welcomed the Palestinians with all the fraternity, affection, and militant spirit they have always shown. That is because the Algerian leaders experienced the same concerns during their revolution.

"In addition to the great opportunities placed at the Palestinian resistance's disposal, it must be said that the Algerians' solicitude, fraternity, and disinterest contributed to this congress' success. Abu 'Iyad, my comrade in arms, expressed this very well in his speech when he mentioned President Bendjedid's refusal to take his place on the official platform and to open the congress as tradition demanded. President Bendjedid's reply was very significant: 'No, I am only a guest of the Palestinian revolution on the same footing as the other delegations.'

"This attitude eloquently demonstrates a spirit of true fraternity and undeniable revolutionary sense. It both demonstrated vigilance and taught the others a masterly lesson.

"It was thus in that serene atmosphere that we held our meeting, as our Algerians brothers did before us, before their independence, to debate their revolution's future.

"That is the main reason why I was anxious to thank each Algerian man and woman."

[Question] Do you think that the outcome of the PNC session really reflects the Palestinian resistance's main concerns?

'Arafat: Some people thought that it was all over for the Palestinian revolution following the fedayeen's departure form Beirut. They went so far as to wager on a split in the resistance's ranks and among its leaders in their first meetings. They wagered on us splitting and dividing. Thank God, I can say that the most magnificent of all this congress' results was the consolidation of Palestinian national unity, which has succeeded in finding a really secure framework in Algeria. In addition there are responsible political decisions: the vital and saving military decisions for the future of the armed struggle at the same time as the objective and critical examination of the resistance's situation regarding its relations with the Arab countries and its international relations.

[Question] What do you think about the PLO's political and military objectives are after this congress? And on what field do you intend to reactivate military operations?

'Arafat: The future of the Palestinians' struggle will rest on the very sure and sound field formed by the will and determination of our people and the Arab nation. As for what we will do after this congress, I promise every Arab patriot that I will pursue the struggle until Jerusalem is liberated, God willing.

[Question] Following the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the repression and extortion against the Palestinians is being continued. Have you received new assurances that these misdeeds will be ended once and for all?

'Arafat: Unfortunately, the agreements reached with a superpower and with two other countries were violated. Before leaving Beirut I was first anxious to hand it over to the soldiers of the multinational force. It is true that there were talks and contacts through U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, but what is ever more true is that I handed Beirut over to the soldiers of the multinational force (France, Italy, and the United States) and to 54 observers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Nobody could have forced me to leave Beirut, but I did it to ensure that its children would be spared the hell created by Sharon for 79 days.

The Israelis went so far as to test the efficiency of their new weapons by massacring Palestinian and Lebanese women and children. The written agreements were violated. But it is to the honor of the U.S. soldiers that they were seriously affected by it. It is my right to wonder: Will the American people tolerate their Army's honor being stained? Will they tolerate that at the same time U.S. political, military, financial, and diplomatic aid to Israel is being stepped up? I have given our UN and Security Council representative the necessary directives to take action to end to this Zionist repression once and for all.

[Question] In your speech you discussed the situation of the Palestinian prisoners detained in the Mansar camp in southern Lebanon, and there is talk of an exchange of Israeli and Palestinian prisoners. What is the position?

'Arafat: This question is being examined in collaboration with our friend Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and International Red Cross representatives.

I received a message about this affair today. I still think that I am bound by the commitments which the Geneva Convention imposes regarding prisoners of war.

In this connection I must specify that no Palestinian soldiers are being held prisoner by the Israelis. Our agreement with Philip Habib stipulated that the prisoners in the two camps would be released before the end of the 1982. The Palestinians held in Ansar are not soldiers but doctors, teachers, workers, engineers, students, and civil servants.

There are 504 doctors and nurses held in that camp in addition to 1,800 Lebanese prisoners.

In a letter to Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and me, envoy Philip Habib promised to release those prisoners. To be specific, there were 14,000 prisoners, 5,000 Lebanese and 9,000 Palestinians. Some 5,700 people, including 1,800 Lebanese, still have to be released. In other words the U.S. pledge to release the prisoners before the end of 1982 has not been kept. This is what is now being discussed in Vienna.

[Question] What tangible results has this congress produced on the military level?

'Arafat: The military commission's work took place behind closed doors. Of course, there are elements which do not mention in the political statement but which are the province of the Higher Military Council and the PLO Executive Committee. However, I must stress that the political and military aspects of the congress statement faithfully reflect what I have always said: that we hold a gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other. We are doing that for a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution in the Middle East, for our people's freedom, for the Palestinians' legitimate national rights relating to their return, to their right to self-determination, and to the creation of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. I am convinced that that will happen sooner or later.

Who would have imagined more than 20 years ago that Algeria would be independent one day? I remember an anecdote told by an Algerian research worker: "No encyclopedia or dictionary mentions the Algerians' nationality other than by the term 'French nationality'." I well remember my first visit to independent Algeria toward the end of 1962. I then held an Algerian passport, with the number 41. I walked around the streets of Algers overcome with joy, thinking about the day when Palestine would be liberated. The Algerian miracle was brought about by the sacrifice of 1.5 million martyrs. And I think that the Sabra and Shatila martyrs will undoubtedly contribute to the advent of independence in Palestine.

[Question] The political declaration states that the Fes plan can only be a minimum threshold for Arab political action. How do you view this aspect of the question in relation to point 7 of the Palestinian Charter?

'Arafat: The subject is clear. We think the Fes plan is the minimum threshold but we nonetheless think that there could be no true peace benefiting the weak and cowards. The only peace is the peace of the strong, because the peace of the weak can only be that of capitulation.

That is why we insisted at the Fes summit that our Arab nation work, prepare, and equip for the forthcoming confrontation with the enemy. This is because we are entering a dangerous century, the century which some people call the "Israelis' century."

[Question] The Palestinian revolution's destiny has chosen you once again. How did you react to your reelection as PLO leader?

'Arafat replied by citing a verse from the Koran. "It is a heavy responsibility but it must not be refused," he said.

[Question] We know the PLO's stance on the Fes plan and the Reagan plan. What is the position on the Soviet plan for holding an international conference?

'Arafat: It is clear. We are considering it and support it. We reaffirm and repeat the decision taken during the 15th PNC session in Damascus. We welcomed President Brezhnev's first proposal. Then there was another plan in Septemeber 1982. We accepted the first proposal and we adhered to and supported the second.

[Question] What about this plan to create a Palestinian National Liberation Army? What is its significance?

'Arafat: In fact it is not a question of creating but of unifying the military forces. Before and during the war those military forces were placed under a single command. I am the general commander of those forces and my brother General Sa'd Sayil, the martyr, took responsibility for central operations, in other words, the general staff. He has now been replaced by General Abu al-Mu'tasim. We also have a Higher Military Council under a single command.

As for the decision taken by the congress today, for the Palestinians it means that these military forces do not need to be unified, because they already are that, but become one single force. There is now a single military force which, as a good omen, has been named the Palestinian National Liberation Army in memory of Algeria's glorious National Liberation Army, the army which won Algerias liberation and independence.

[Question] What about the Lebanese progressive forces? Do you think you are still bound to them?

'Arafat: The Lebanese progressive forces are not alone in Lebanon. We are still in the Palestinian-Lebanese joint command and I am still the general commander of those armed forces. Mr Walid Junblatt, the representative of the Lebanese progressive forces, attended the opening session of the PNC meeting. Then Mr George Hawi spoke as representative of the Lebanese National Movement. After the speech which I delivered this evening, the Palestinian representatives were on my left and the Lebanese on my right.

[Question] The PNC political statement mentions the Arab Steadfastness front's role. How do you see its action?

'Arafat: Exactly as we defined it in our political declaration.

[Question] Do you envisage the Palestinian fighters return to the so-called battlefield countries and the revival of fedayeen military actions from those countries' borders?

'Arafat: Our action must frequently be based on the experience we have gained in the field. The celebrations in Aden for the launching of our armed revolution on 26 January were not merely celebrations but an important military event, since we mobilized 7,500 fedayeen in the space of 48 hours. That was merely a logistical test, but its results on the military level were superb.

[Question] There is a great deal of speculation about your recent meeting with Israeli representatives known for their sympathy with the Palestinian resistance. Some people go so far as to claim that the "Peace Now" movement represents nothing in the Israeli population. What is your view?

'Arafat: A comrade from the new communist list [RAKAH] (Israeli Communist Party) told me that in 1967, when Dayan announced the Arabs' defeat after 6 hours and toasted it in champagne, there were only two RAKAH members, who were incapable of doing anything.

There were 400,000 demonstrators in the streets of occupied Palestine. They included officers, generals, and reserve soldiers. That is important at the psychological level, as I said today; that led to the "massacre of the generals" -- including both Sharon and Eytan.

[Question] What constitutional form would a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation have?

'Arafat: A Jordanian-Palestinian joint commission is busy working on that question. Each side has already forward a plan.

[Question] You still seem to regard Arab political determination as a decisive factor for Palestine's liberation. Do you think that that is really possible after what happened in Beirut?

'Arafat: Your question comes straight to the point: We reiterated that it is political determination which the Arabs have always lacked.

Where does the political determination lie? We are stronger than the Israelis from the military viewpoint and also as regards population size. We are also stronger financially. But where is Arab political determination to be found?

AL-WAZIR CHAIRS MILITARY MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS

JN011750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] In Damascus Brohter Abu Jihab [Khalil al-Wazir], the deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and a Fatah Central Committee member, has presided over a series of meetings held by the Higher Military Council of the Palestinian revolution forces. Brother Abu Jihad informed the Military officials of the resolutions adopted by the PNC during the recent meeting in Algiers, particularly those dealing with military affairs. The meeting also reviewed all aspects of the Palestinian armed forces in Al-Biqa' and northern Lebanon, particularly their training and their arms in light of the Israeli troop concentrations and recurrent Israeli threats.

Forces To Be Unified

JN011902 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad, a Fatah Central Committee member, has described the PNC resolution on unifying all forces of the Palestinian resistance movement under the name of the Palestine National Liberation Army as the most important resolution that the PNC adopted at its recent meeting in Algiers. In a statement to REUTER he said that the PNC adopted the resolution on unifying the Palestinian factions after a thorough study of the nature of the Palestinians struggle. It is a qualitative step on the road to developing the Palestinians' military struggle.

Abu Jihad added that the Palestinian Higher Military Council held its first meeting in Algiers after the PNC meeting ended. During the meeting it was agreed on how to unify all forces of the Palestinian resistance movement within the next 3 months.

SANA: PFLP-GENERAL COMMAND DENOUNCES AS-SARTAWI

JN012134 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2050 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 1 Mar (SANA) -- Fadl Shururu, the official spokesman of the PFLP-General Command, has denounced the invitations for capitulation that 'Isam as-Sartawi made at the end of the 16th PNC. In a statement today Shururu said As-Sartawi's audacity went so far as to contest the PNC resolutions which categorically rejected Reagan's plan.

The PFLP-General Command spokesman held those to whom As-Sartawi is affiliated responsible for his anomalous practices and statements. The Palestinian official called for restraining this man, who flouts the militant values, preventing him from playing havoc with our Palestinian people's objectives and aspirations and forbidding him to trample on the PNC resolutions.

TAP: ARAB LEAGUE'S KLIBI LEAVES FOR AUSTRIA

LD281224 Tunis TAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Tunis, 28 Feb (TAP) -- Arab League Secretary General, Chedli Klibi left Tunis yesterday for Vienna on a working visit to Austria. He will hold talks with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

BAGHDAD PLO RADIO REPORTS ON FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS

JN011710 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The popular uprising by our people in the occupied territories is accompanied by an escalation of operations by our fighters inside the occupied homeland. In a statement issued last night, the military spokesman of the Palestinian revolution forces revealed that our fighters, operating inside the occupied homeland, carried out three successful operations against Zionist military targets over the past 24 hours. In the first operation, the spokesman said, our fighters placed an explosive charge in a bus belonging to the Zionist Egged company which was going from Kafr Saba to Tel Aviv on the morning of 27 February. The charge was discovered but the Zionist explosives expert failed to defuse it. The charge went off inside the bus, which was badly damaged. One of our fighters attacked a Zionist soldier with a sharp instrument [words indistinct] at the entrance of Qalqiliyah town. Our fighter inflicted serious injuries on the Zionist soldier. In the third operation, the spokesman said, one of our fighters placed an explosive charge in a parking lot for military vehicles in the (Al-Qatamun) quarter of Jerusalem. The explosion damaged many vehicles and injured a Zionist guard.

YAMANI BELIEVES OPEC MAJORITY TO CUT PRICES

NC011242 Paris AFP in English 1236 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 1 (AFP) -- Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said today he thought the next conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) might be held "either this coming Saturday or Monday".

He told French television that the current consultations among OPEC ministers would continue for another two or three days.

"Our hope is that these talks will be fruitful," he said, and that OPEC countries would succeed in reaching an agreement that would stabilize the world market and forestall a crisis for both producers and consumers.

He believed that "more than at any time in the past" an agreement seemed possible and even imminent. Shaykh Yamani said that "it seems" that the majority, if not all, OPEC countries were willing to cut oil prices.

Asked whether it was fair to say that agreement was in hand, he replied affirmatively.

Favors Cut of $4

NC012006 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 1 (AFP) -- Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Zaki Yamani said today that he favoured cutting oil prices by about four dollars a barrel to around 30 dollars.

In an interview with French television, Shaykh Yamani said that at this price "we will be able to continue our projects."

But he added that if oil prices fell to 26 dollars it would be a "serious problem" for a number of consumer countries which had invested large sums in new energy projects.

The Saudi oil minister said the special Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting to find a new prices and production structure could be held "next Saturday or Monday" and a solution to the crisis was "imminent."

He added that Mexico -- a non-OPEC member oil producer -- was favourable to an agreement on a new prices and production quota.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC MEETING TO BE HELD DURING NONALIGNED SUMMIT

GF011421 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Feb 83 p 1

['Amid ash-Shanti report]

[Text] AL-WATAN has learned from a senior Gulf political source that a meeting of the GCC countries' leaders, who are participating in the seventh nonaligned summit, will be held in New Delhi and that contacts are being made among the Gulf capitals to organize this summit.

The source said that a preparatory meeting of the Gulf foreign ministers will be held on Saturday in order to coordinate the positions and discuss the recent developments in the region and the steps taken by the council since its summit in Bahrain in November.

The source denied recent rumors on the possibility of holding an Arab summit with the participation of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. It said: We have not been informed in this regard. It said that the Arab countries are still in agreement to boycott Egypt as long as it is linked with the Camp David accords. At the same time, however, the source indicated the possibility of holding a mini Arab summit. It stressed that the concern of the nonaligned countries' leaders is to hold a meeting between Iraq and Iran, and that many contacts are currently being made among the nonaligned countries, including Baghdad and Tehran.

SAUDI ARABIA

DAILY ON REAGAN STATEMENT ON PALESTINIANS

PM011457 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 26 Feb 83 p 3

[Editorial: "How To Develop the U.S. Stance in Favor of a Palestinian State"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. President's tone with Israel is now sharper than before. At the same time, Jordan has emphasized that its participation in the expected negotiations on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is conditional on complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, suspension of Zionist settlements in the West Bank, and real Palestinian participation in the negotiations.

The Jordanian conditions, with the exception of the one pertaining to the real Palestinian -- in other words the PLO -- participation in the negotiations, confirm Washington's views, outlined in the Reagan initiative, about the need for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and for a freeze on the building of settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The Reagan initiative, however, collides with the Menahem Begin government's intransigent policy based on colonialist expansion in Arab territory by means of military force which Israel uses to fulfill its so-called security requirements. The U.S. President perhaps made this point accurately when he asked "if the Israelis will be able to live indefinitely as a military camp" in the Middle East. He also noted that Israel has an inflation rate of 130 percent as a result of the fact that it is a military arsenal in the region.

What is more important in Reagan's statement, is his assertion that the Israelis are compelled to maintain a military presence incommensurate with the size of their state, which means that they need peace with the other states in the region.

There is no doubt that Reagan's hints also imply some kind of a warning to Israel that it cannot continue to maintain its presence in the Middle East by being a military arsenal superior to all the states of the region put together and by imposing its military expansionist policy.

The pressing question, however, is: Since the United States is always the main contributor to the Israeli military arsenal and the funds used to remedy the enormously inflated Israeli economy, are Reagan's statements to be interpreted as a hint that U.S. economic and military aid might be used as a means of putting pressure on Israel? A careful reading between the lines of the Reagan statements would give this impression indeed, but is there a U.S. decision to this effect?

We can clearly discern the positive aspect of Reagan's recent statements in which he clearly mentioned, and for the first time, the Palestinian people's need for a homeland, although he denied that this means setting up an independent Palestinian state.

We should consider objectively the change that has occurred in the thinking of the U.S. President and the U.S. Administration as a whole. When President Reagan first launched his election campaign, he looked at the PLO as a terrorist organization and the Palestinian question as a refugee question. In the U.S. strategy on the Middle East, he gave priority to what Alexander Haig called the strategic consensus between Israel and the Arab states against the Soviet threat. The Arab states, with the Kingdom in the forefront, and the Palestinians, with their heroic steadfastness against the attempts to annihilate them in Beirut and, later, with the resolutions of the Palestine National Council reflecting political maturity, a sense of international responsibility, and an interest in a peaceful settlement, have managed to change President Reagan's ideas to the point, so far, of acknowledging the need for a Palestinian homeland within the framework of a federation with Jordan, as well as the need for a freeze on the building of settlements in the West Bank and for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon. This is considered a major shift by the U.S. Administration, although it is still far from accepting the Arab and Palestinian views expressed in the Arab peace plan.

We still need more coordination and effective Arab solidarity in order to be able to persuade the U.S. to be more impartial in its approach to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

UAE

OIL MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT CRISIS

GF011338 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Feb 83 p 17

[Roundtable interview with Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah after his lecture at a seminar organized by the Foreign Ministry of the Intercontinental Hotel in Abu Dhabi on 26 February -- recorded by AL-ITTIHAD correspondent Husam Himsi]

[Excerpts] [Question] What are the measures which will be taken by OPEC if a distribution of production shares is not agreed upon in the coming meeting?

[Answer] With regard to the production shares, had the organization reached an agreement during the previous meetings held in January and December, we would have been able to avoid the current situation.

However, I am optimistic that the producing countries are prepared to divide the production shares according to the current market circumstances. We also hope to reach an agreement on the production shares with the countries which are not members of OPEC. For those who say that the Arab Gulf states, which are members of OPEC, have reached decisions, I say that they have really reached decisions, but I will not announce these decisions now. At present, we are trying to seize any opportunity to reach a compromise within the framework of OPEC. If we do not reach that compromoise, we will make decisions.

[Question] What is the influence on the oil market of the Soviet gas which will be pumped to Europe?

[Answer] There is no doubt that any new source of energy will compete with our oil and gas. We do not hate competition. However, if this competition jeopardizes the interests of one party at the expense of another, we will then know how to protect our interests and our markets.

[Question] Which is the appropriate solution for the current circumstances, the reduction of prices or the reduction of production? What are the consequences in the long run?

[Answer] The successfull solution is the reduction of production.

[Question] Do you expect that Mexico and Britain will join the efforts currently being made to fix prices before the situation deteriorates?

[Answer] There are encouraging signs indicating that the countries which are outside OPEC want to coordinate with the organization on production and prices. How serious these countries are in this regard is not clear now. However, for the first time the oil-producing countries outside OPEC are responding to the issue. We are now in contact with these countries and we will know their exact position during the coming days.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES BAHRAINI HEIR APPARENT

GF011353 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 1 Mar (WAKH) -- President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received Bahraini heir apparent and Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defense Force Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting the UAE.

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOYS -- President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received the credentials of Italy's envoy Luca Daniels Biolato, Sri Lanka's envoy (Suhita Gota Madasa), Mauritania's envoy Cheikh (Ma'ul 'Aynayn Sharif), and India's envoy Ashraf Aziz, in Abu Dhabi today. [Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Mar 83 GF]

'ALI DISCUSSES LEBANON ISSUE WITH HABIB

NC011714 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali this evening held a meeting with U.S. envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib, who arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a brief visit.

The discussions during the meeting focused on the development of the situation in Lebanon and the results of the tripartite talks for the withdrawal of the Isreli forces from Lebanon and the settlement of the Lebanese problem.

Spokesman on Talks

NC012012 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1941 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA) -- An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that at today's meeting between U.S. special Middle East envoy Philip Habib and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Habib briefed 'Ali on the preparations that are being made for settling the Lebanese issue, both concerning the subjects related to the security arrangements -- subjects that are expected to be approved -- and with regard to the future relations between Lebanon and Israel.

The Foreign Ministry source said that the U.S. envoy also informed Kamal Hasan 'Ali of the efforts that he has exerted to resolve the issue.

At the meeting, Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized the importance of achieving the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanese territory at the earliest possible time so that Lebanon will recover its sovereignty and independence. He also asserted the importance of protecting the Palestinians living in Lebanon.

President Husni Mubarak has scheduled a meeting with the U.S. envoy for tomorrow, Wednesday.

Mubarak-Habib Meet 2 Mar

NC020957 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received U.S. envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib. The meeting was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs.

PRESIDENT CARTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO 1 MARCH

NC012056 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2047 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA) -- Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter this evening arrived in Cairo from Washington for a private 8-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak.

Carter will also meet with Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the prime minister, and with senior Egyptian officials. President Carter, who is accompanied by Mrs Carter, was met at Cairo airport by Dr Mustafa Khalil, the deputy leader of the National Democratic Party for foreign affairs, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton and embassy staffers.

During his visit to Egypt, President Carter will be accompanied by Mr Sa'id Kamal Zadah, secretary of the president's office.

Muhyi ad-Din, Carter Meet

NC021017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA) -- Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din received in his office today former U.S. President Jimmy Carter who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

Following the 50-minute meeting, Prime Minister Muhyi ad-Din said they exchanged views on the world's political situation in general and the situation in the Middle East in particular. He said that there was identity of views on these questions, adding that Carter expressed his view from the standpoint of his private and knowledgeable experience, in addition to the fact that he has a special relationship with Egypt since the signing of the Camp David agreement.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din added that the meeting also dealt with Egyptian-U.S. relations. The former U.S. president praised these relations. He also praised President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to the United States and expressed great admiration and appreciation for President Mubarak's policy and his contribution toward strengthening Egyptian-U.S. relations.

GHALI ON TALKS IN ITALY, OTHER ISSUES

LD011255 Kuwait KUNA in English 1118 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Rome, March 1 (KUNA) -- Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali Monday said he does not agree with those who are trying to minimize the impact of the Arab world owing to the drop in oil prices.

Dr Ghali told KUNA that the impact and effectiveness of the Arabs has always been in active diplomacy undertaken by various Arab states in world politics. The Arabs, he recalled, did not resort to the "oil weapon" in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and their presence was felt through the active dialogue Arab governments initiated with world powers on diplomatic levels.

The minister said he expects the coming stage to witness a period of intensive Arab diplomatic activities to rebuff the allegations of those who seek to undermine Arab influence in international affairs.

The minister, who had a lengthy meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo Monday said he welcomed the efforts of the Italian Government in Mideast endeavors for peace. He suggested that other European countries should follow the example of Italy's active contribution to the Mideast.

Egypt, he added, is encouraging the European states to exert more efforts with both the United States and Israel to promote Mideast peace and speed up withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Like Italy, Dr Ghali said, Europe should be following an effective and positive role toward a settlement in the Mideast. The minister said Egypt welcomes any initiative from Italy, which has considerable interest in the region being part of the Mediterranean area, and favors peaceful solutions to the problems of the region.

On the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council the Egyptian minister said he hoped that through the resolutions PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will be able to negotiate with Jordan to set up a joint delegation to move toward negotiations with the United States to find a solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of obtaining and securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

As far as Egypt was concerned, Dr Ghali said, the Algiers Palestine National Council resolutions had no effect on changing the current relationship between Cairo and the PLO. The relations are good and continuing normally, Dr Ghali remarked.

Relations between Cairo and the Arab states, the minister noted, were also continuing satisfactorily and said there is coordination between Cairo and a number of Arab states such as Morocco, Jordan, Iraq, and others. He said thanks to Arab solidarity, relations between the Egyptian people and their Arab brothers are strong in spite of the absence of diplomatic relations which will come in time.

Dr Ghali said Egypt welcomes the rapproachment between Algeria and Morocco and said Egypt encourages such moves to get the two countries to settle their disputes peacefully within the African framework without outside intervention. Dr Ghali who leaves today for New Delhi for the non-aligned conference, expressed belief that the importance of the non-aligned block has now increased in view of the existence of cold war between East and West and the economic crisis between North and South. He said the coming conference is expected to contribute to reducing world tension and solving economic issues.

On Egypt's relations with Israel, the minister said these relations were currently suffering as a result of Israel's behavior and he did not expect them to be normalized until Israel pulled its troops from Lebanon. On Libya, Dr Ghali said this country was undertaking a "destructive" role and violating the charter of the Organization of African Unity and threatening peace in the Mideast and the African Continent. He proposed that Libya should assume roles that would contribute and enhance the economies of the countries of the region and avoid conspiracies. The minister told KUNA that the Italian foreign minister will be visiting Egypt March for further talks on the Mideast.

TALKS WITH U.S., ISRAEL ON TABAH BEGIN 2 MAR

NC011719 Cairo MENA in English 1640 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 1 (MENA) -- The Tabah issue will be discussed by Egypt and Israel with the participation of the United States at a meeting to be held in Ismailia, Egypt, tomorrow.

The three delegation will consider the two issues proposed for discussion, which are a study of the agreement on the temporary arrangements to be enforced in the Tabah area until a final settlement on the status of the area was reached, as well as a study of the procedural method upon which the parties would agree for the sake of initiating the implementation of the reconciliation and arbitration in accordance with the terms of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

'Ali Briefs Tabah Delegation

NC011916 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The first meeting to discuss the Tabah issue will be held in the town of Ismailia tomorrow. Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. delegations will participate in the meeting. Two issues will be put forward for discussion during the meeting: the first issue concerns reaching an agreement on temporary arrangements to be applied in the Tabah area until a final settlement of the area's status is reached; the second issue concerns discussion of the procedural method to be pursued by the parties [concerned] for initiating the implementation of conciliation [tawifq] in accordance with the provisions of the peace treaty between the two countries.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, assistant foreign minister and head of the Egyptian delegation to the talks. 'Ali briefed 'Abd al-Hamid on the Egyptian stand and the directives to which the delegation is to adhere during the talks.

CHIEF OF STAFF ON COOPERATION WITH FRANCE, IRAQ

PM011043 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Feb 83 p 1

[Mustafa Samir report: "Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Says: Cooperation With France in Manufacturing Arms and Aircraft Will Continue"]

[Text] Paris -- In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM at the conclusion of his 8-day visit to Paris, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz said that his talks with French Defense Minister Charles Hernu dealt with continuation of Egyptian-French cooperation in the programs for the manufacture of arms and aircraft in Egypt. He added that these arms and aircraft include the Alpha jet, Mirage and Gazelle planes, and the "132 and 105 [mm] guns."

He also said that large quantities of electronic equipment are produced in our military plants which have never stopped operating. Production at these plants has in fact developed considerably under the joint industrialization plan, he said.

Referring to Western media reports that Egyptian forces are fighting alongside the Iraq forces, Lt General Hafiz affirmed that we have no forces or military units outside Egypt other than a number of experts on training and armament. He added that these military experts are in Arab countries at the request of these countries.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, Lt Gen 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi said that the Exocet missiles which Iraq recently contracted to purchase are among the most advanced missiles and will raise the combat capabilities of the Iraqi forces. He added that Iran might reconsider its position on continuation of the war in view of the grave losses its forces suffered in the latest offensive. These losses, he added, confirmed the superiority of the Iraqi Air Force and armor.

AL-AKHBAR VIEWS AL-QADHAFI'S THREATS TO SUDAN

NC020722 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 2 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR comments on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's statement before the Political Bureau of the National Democratic Party that the situation is stable in Sudan, that there is no truth to rumors that there are disturbances, and that there is full coordination between the two parts of the Nile valley on integration and on security and joint defense.

The newspaper says: It is clear that by this assertion President Muhammad Husni Mubarak wanted to reduce the intensity of the statements that have been issued about Al-Qadhdhafi's saber-rattling and his mobilization of his troops on the borders with Sudan and Chad. Therefore, the president reasserted that there is full coordination between the two parts of the valley on integration and in the field of security and joint defense. It is as though he made this statement to warn those trying to undermine the unity of the valley and to obstruct its march toward the integration projects, the implementation of which has actually begun. The president affirmed that attention is focused on the development projects for this integration.

AL-AKHBAR explains that on numerous occasions it has been declared that the military strategy of Egypt and Sudan, or the Nile valley in its unity and integration, stretches from the southernmost point at the sources of the Nile to the northernmost point at the mouth of the Nile. Any rioting or any aggression that takes place against any part of the Nile valley, in the South or in the North, is rioting and aggression against the entire valley. Al-Qadhdhafi is imagining things if he thinks that his missiles can undermine the unity of integration, obstruct the implementation of the integration projects, or weaken this holy bond between the two parts of the valley. With this imagination, he undoubtedly is like someone who is plowing the sea.

BAHA' ADIN DESCRIBES PLO STATEMENT AS 'MODERATE'

NC012134 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 1 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article in AL-AHRAM, Ahmad Baha' ad-Din describes the statement issued by the PLO as generally moderate. He says that implementation of all the paragraphs in the statement is contingent on the PLO's will as well as on other wills inside the PLO, the Arab states, Israel, and the United States. However, there is one paragraph that is connected with the PLO's will alone. This is the paragraph on the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking and the freedom of this decisionmaking from any pressure; in other words, the pressures applied by other Arab states that have artificial organizations within the PLO.

Therefore, we have the right to say that the PLO should indeed implement this paragraph and to see the PLO put this paragraph into practice. It is inadmissable that the funds of the oil states or the outbiddings of the rejectionist states should have a bearing on the PLO's actions and on its decisions.

Despite the careful attention that is being devoted to averting dissension, the views of the majority within the PLO and within the whole Palestinian arena -- a majority specifically represented by the Fatah movement -- are entitled to prevail, because this is what democracy is all about. Otherwise, the PLO's moves would become bound by the views of any minority. Furthermore, the PLO's future would also become contingent on this or that minority.

FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION WITH SUDAN BEGINS

NC011626 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today completed the preparation of the executive program for the implementation of integration between Egypt and Sudan in the domain of foreign policy. It has been decided to begin implementing this program as of today through coordination between the Egyptian and Sudanese Foreign Ministries with regard to international relations and international organizations and bodies.

This has been done in implementation of the agreement reached between Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri during the meeting of the Supreme Council for Integration.

COMMUNIQUE: NAVAL TARGET HIT; AIR FORCE ACTIVE

JN011748 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,015 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our triumphant armed forces are continuing their brave confrontation of the barbaric Khomeyniite aggression. The results for their land, air, and sea operations for last night and today are as follows:

1. Today a large enemy naval target was discovered in the northeastern part of the Arab Gulf. One of our brave naval units and our daring naval air force attacked the enemy target scoring a direct and accurate hit. Our naval units and air force returned safely to base.

2. Using various types of weapons, our forward units attacked an enemy concentration in front of our forces in the Maysan sector killing two and destroying one excavator, two hardware stockpiles, and one observation post. Our combat patrols found in the same sector a number of light weapons and various military equipment which were left behind by the enemy forces following the recent battles at Ash-Shib.

3. Our daring air force pilots today continued their raids against enemy concentrations and personnel assembly points in front of our forces in the Maysan sectors, and against military targets deep inside enemy territory in the southern sector of the front, scoring direct hits and inflicting losses in men and equipment. Columns of smoke were seen rising from the enemy targets which were either hit or destroyed. All our planes returned safely to base after successfully accomplishing their missions.

4. One personnel assembly position was destroyed in the area east of Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 March 1983

NAVY DESTROYS FIVE IRANIAN 'NAVAL UNITS'

JN020801 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA) -- An Iraqi military spokesman has announced that the Iraqi naval forces early today completely destroyed five Iranian naval units, including three tankers. The Iraqi forces also destroyed the oil installations in the Iranian oilfield of Nowruz in the southern [as received] part of the Arab Gulf.

In a statement to INA today, the Iraqi military spokesman said the brave Iraqi naval forces carried out daring raid operation at 0200 today against oil tankers in the Nowruz oilfield in Bandar-e Khomeyni, 100 km from the Iraqi coast. The spokesman added: Our forces succeeded in completely destroying five Iranian naval units, including three tankers, and the oil installations in the Nowruz oilfield. All the Iraqi naval units returned safely to base.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR NEW DELHI

JN011140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, left for New Delhi today at the head of an official delegation to attend the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference due to open there the day after tomorrow, Thursday. This conference will prepare for the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference of the heads of states and governments.

19TH NEGOTIATIONS ROUND ENDS IN KHALDAH 1 MARCH

NC011453 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1433 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Dispatch by official delegation of Lebanese Information Ministry from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah]

[Text] The meetings of the subcommittees -- the committees on security arrangements and withdrawals, the mutual relations, and the termination of the state of war -- ended at 1600 today. At the end of these meetings, the information attache to the Lebanese delegation, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, made the following official statement:

Today's work was characterized by a kind of Israeli intransigence, which was manifested in the plenary meeting and the meetings of the committees. This may be due to the Lebanese positions which Ambassador Habib conveyed to the Israeli officials. However, we are involved in negotiations, as head of the Lebanese delegation Dr Antoine Fattal said, rather than dealing with rigid positions.

Therefore, the committees met and discussed the subjects under their competence in an atmosphere which we hoped would be more flexible. Perhaps we must wait a little longer until the results of the U.S. efforts to narrow the difference in viewpoints appear.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday in Netanya.

Staff, Team Assess Talks

NC012020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Members of the political operations room and the Lebanese negotiating delegation this evening held a joint meeting in the Republican Palace during which they discussed the results achieved in today's 19th round of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations in which Israeli intransigence was apparent. The Israelis again insisted on the establishment of observation points and a security zone 45 km deep. They stressed these two demands. They also informed the Lebanese negotiating delegation that they have rejected the proposals made by U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib.

The Lebanese delegation faced the Israeli intransigence with a solid Lebanese position, refusing to retreat and to undermine the basic Lebanese positions, which have become known to all -- that Lebanon's position is firm and that there is no room for retreat on anything that affects its sovereignty and independence.

Press on Habib's Mission

NC020846 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The press notes the reports and rumors about replacing Habib with former President Jimmy Carter or former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger despite the U.S. officials' denial of such a report.

On this subject, AN-NAHAR says: U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Habib cannot forget the Arab capitals concerned about the Lebanese crisis. Therefore, he went to Cairo amidst a talk about a role for former President Carter. While he is endeavoring to untie the knots in the way of the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations, he is working at the same time, possibly in coordination with Carter, to keep the doors open to the U.S. visualization of a solution in the area through him or through the former president, particularly with Syria and perhaps with the Palestinians.

AL-BAYRAQ discusses the atmosphere at yesterday's negotiations and says: Israel has rejected most of the Lebanese proposals conveyed by U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Habib. This Israeli rejection has been reflected in the 19th round of negotiations which was held in Khaldah yesterday.

AL-ANWAR says that yesterday's negotiations were held in an atmosphere denoting that Habib's mission has not achieved its results as yet.

AL-JUMAYYIL CHAIRS POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

NC011228 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Dispatch by Joe Sa'adah from operations room in Republican Palace]

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired at noon today the meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison body, which was attended by Prime Minister al-Wazzan, the Italian and British ambassadors, and the French and U.S. charges d'affaires. The chief of the operations room in the Republican Palace presented a review on what has been achieved within the framework of greater Beirut and the task assigned to the Lebanese Army which is supported by the multinational force.

President al-Jumayyil thanked the representatives of the states taking part in the multinational force for their participation in the rescue operations. President al-Jumayyil also presented a review of the tripartite negotiations which Lebanon is conducting to ensure the withdrawal of foreign forces from its territory.

Before the political committee meeting, President al-Jumayyil met with Prime Minister al-Wazzan to follow up various questions, particularly the administrative ones.

After the meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison body, President al-Jumayyil met with a delegation from Sidon, led by Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat, minister of housing and cooperatives, and former minister Nazih al-Bizri, who stated afterward that they reviewed the situation in Sidon city and the demands of its people in respect to the situation there.

Al-Wazzan Remarks on Meeting

NC011354 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpts] At noon today, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison council in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, the Italian and British ambassadors, the French and U.S. charges d'affaires, and the Lebanese and international officers team.

Upon emerging from the palace, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: We are awaiting the antidote, and we have nothing new. We have placed the members of the operations room in the picture of the negotiations and discussed the existing situation today. The operations room is daily following up the situation. We have acquainted ourselves with some of the arrangements being made.

He added: The meeting with his excellency the president was for the purpose of discussing pending issues.

He was asked: Are there any new appointments? He replied: We have nothing in mind. Asked about Philip Habib's remark about improvement in the negotiations, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: We express optimism on Habib's behalf, hoping he will bring us something which we are waiting for.

SALIM CALLS FOR ARAB SUPPORT OF POSITION

NC011552 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] During a meeting with the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Beirut today, not attended by the representatives of Sudan, Bahrain, and Libya, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim called for the support of the Lebanese paper at the forthcoming nonaligned summit conference.

After explaining the philosophy and position of the Lebanese Government toward the subjects on the nonaligned summit agenda, he called for understanding of Lebanon's position in the current negotiations. Lebanon is negotiating to liberate its territory and safeguard its unity and independence, and there is no point in weakening its argument or in outbiddings, Salim said.

Foreign Minister Salim warned against attempts to hamper this process, since this may result in the establishment of sectarian statelets -- something which will constitute a danger to all the Arab states of the East and successive disintegration of a number of them. He said: What is required is total Arab support for Lebanon and giving Lebanon full freedom to act.

Salim asked the Arab diplomats whether their countries have an alternative to the course pursued by Lebanon. They agreed that it is the best course.

'SOURCES' ON ESTABLISHING PLO RADIO IN CYPRUS

NC010727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Informed Lebanese sources have affirmed that the PLO and some of its supporting organizations in Lebanon have submitted a joint application to the Greek Cypriot Government for a license to establish a radio station that would transmit from Cyprus. The same sources have explained that the information apparatuses belonging to these organizations will be moved to Nicosia where the Palestinians will equip and boost them. Moreover, these organizations will keep an office in West Beirut.

The informed sources have affirmed that the aim of moving the above-mentioned radio station to Cyprus is to launch an instigation campaign against Radio Free Lebanon and the Voice of Lebanon so as to bring about their closure.

It is worth noting that Nicosia has recently been turned into a vital center for the activities of the Palestinian organizations in the wake of the Palestinians' expulsion from Beirut.

VOAL Cyprus Move Denied

NC011838 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The official in charge in information in the higher political body of the Independent Nasirite Movement -- al-Murabitun has replied to the report published today on the front page of the newspaper AL-'AMAL, which belongs to the Lebanese Phalangist Party, alleging that the Voice of Arab Lebanon radio will move to Cyprus and that negotiations are underway with the Cypriot authorities [word indistinct].

The official said: While denying this fabricated report part and parcel, we emphasize that the Voice of Arab Lebanon is continuing with its [word indistinct] from its national and Islamic position because it is not a formula that is liable to change.

IDF ROTATION; KHALDAH EXCHANGE DESTROYED

NC020758 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The Israeli forces have carried out a wide rotation of their personnel east of the old Sidon road and in northern Al-Matin. Israeli forces' convoys are seen on a constant move along the logistic route they usually follow. Patrols have been deployed on the road extending from Galerie Sim'an up to Kafr Shima bridge via Al-Hadath township. Combing operations accompanied by shooting were carried out in the areas west of this axis.

The Israelis yesterday left the Khaldah central exchange building but only after destroying the equipment and instruments there. They occupied the building about a week ago.

ARMY COMMAND BANS ILLEGAL PORTS, IMPORTED GOODS

NC020718 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The Lebanese Army Command issued the following communique this morning: On the occasion of the Army deployment to greater Beirut in accordance with Decree No 10 dated 14 February 1983, the Army Command announces the following:

1. Illegal import of foreign goods shall be strictly forbidden as well as the movement of these goods without documents proving lawful import. The customs authorities will discharge their responsibilities backed by the Armed Forces in accordance with valid laws, particularly Article 5 of the abovementioned legislative decree.

2. The owners of illegally imported goods before this communique was issued must declare them to the Customs Department within 1 month, presenting detailed statements so that the due import fees can be paid without fine.

3. Should the Customs Department and the appropriate authorities find undeclared illegally imported goods after this deadline, the owners will be liable to pay customs fees and fines as well as stand trial at military tribunals according to the aforementioned legislative decree.

4. All illegal ports shall be closed as of Monday, 7 March 1983.

5. The Customs Department will pursue vessels that unload their goods outside the legal ports. Their captains, agents, and crews shall be prosecuted in military courts in accordance with Article 5 of the aforementioned decree.

PRESIDENTIAL ENVOYS LEAVE FOR JORDAN, MOROCCO

NC011829 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Deputy Emdond Rizq and Ambassador Hani al-Amin left Beirut this evening for Amman to deliver a message from President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil to King Husayn of Jordan. Afterward, they will proceed to Rabat to deliver a similar message to King Hassan II of Morocco.

ARAB LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES 1 MARCH

NC011828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Hammad as-Sib, the personal representative of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, arrived in Beirut this evening to prepare for Klibi's visit to Lebanon on Friday. Foreign Minister Salim will receive As-Sib tomorrow.

RADIO, PRESS REACTION TO RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS

On U.S.-Israeli 'Threats'

JN011740 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1716 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] To face what the Syrian authorities call a systematic campaign of threats waged by Israel and the United States against Syria, an authoritative source in Damascus asserted that Syria is determined to secure all adequate means to defend its sovereignty and independence.

Commenting on Israeli television reports that the USSR has sent radar aircraft similar to the U.S. AWACS to Syria, the same source said the announcement of such reports is in itself a threat to Syria and is part of the U.S. and Israeli propaganda campaign and threats against Syria.

The Syrian source concluded that Syria is determined to secure all adequate defend its sovereignty so that massacres that have been carried out by Israel in southern Lebanon and in the Sabra and Shatila camps will not be repeated in other parts of the Arab region.

Damascus Commentary

JN011430 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Statements by U.S. officials yesterday and today indicate that the Reagan administration is paving the way for a new aggression against Syria. U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger announced that the presence of the new missiles in Syria increases the threat of war in the region. Secretary of State George Shultz said that the Syrian missiles threaten the stability of the region and increase the difficulties which keep the United States from realizing the withdrawal of forces from Lebanon.

These two statements show that the United States not only opposes Syria's efforts to increase its own strength in defense of itself and the Arabs against Israel's continuous aggressions and repeated expansionist leaps, but also views Syria's right to possess the means to defend itself and the Arabs as a hostile act that cannot be allowed because it is opposed to the U.S. aim of dominating the region. It is also counter to the moves to make Lebanon surrender and reward Israel by transforming Lebanon into an Israeli-U.S. protectorate. While beating the drums of war against Syria, the Reagan administration did not forget to declare, through a U.S. assistant secretary of state, that it had increased its military and economic aid to Israel under the pretext that this aid was a factor in the stability of the region and a vital element of U.S. Middle East policy.

The U.S. equation in the Middle East struggle necessitates Israel's superiority over the Arabs qualitatively and quantitatively in the field of arms because such military superiority can be employed to punish all those who disobey the United States, those who refuse to yield to its plans to dominate the region, and those who attempt to build Arab strength to confront Israel's expansionist leaps which meet with full U.S. support.

Along with Israel, Washington carried out the invasion of Lebanon in order to remove the stumbling block which stood on the Camp David path. This stumbling block was Syria, which stopped the Camp David march and refused to yield to the U.S. and Israeli schemes to impose their hegemony over the region.

The Reagan administration has gone back on its word concerning its guarantees to Lebanon to end the Israeli invasion and has failed to force the Lebanese authorities to surrender to the Zionist invaders and to sign a peace deal with Israel under the slogans of neighborliness, future relations, and the establishment of early warning stations within the framework of the security arrnagements. When it became amply clear that the aims which the United States wanted to impose on Lebanon are identical to Israel's, the Reagan administration escalated its rabid campaign against Syria which declared that it supported all Lebanese stands against the enemy terms and against any encroachment on the unity and sovereignty of the Lebanese people and territory.

Syria, because of its national and pan-Arab responsibility, has defended Lebanon and the Arabs by confronting the Zionist and U.S. threats against the Arab existence and fate and warns the international community of the consequences of the U.S. threats. Syria not only rejects these threats, which are blatant interference in its internal affairs and a violation of its right to possess the means of its own defense, but also reserves for itself the right to answer any aggression to which it may become exposed. At the same time, Syria affirms that it will not succumb to any threats; that the building of its strategic power is the road to a just peace which has disappeared through the usurpation of rights, occupation, and the violation of the will and resolutions of the international community.

Press on SAM-5's

JN011250 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Damascus newspapers today attacked the official U.S. statements on the siting of the Soviet SAM-5's in Syria. AL-BA'TH criticized U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's statement yesterday, in which he considered the presence of the Soviet experts, an extremely worrying matter. The paper saw in this statement U.S. encouragement for Israel and a threat to Syria's security.

The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH stressed that the new Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens is preparing for military aggression against Syria, supported and encouraged by the United States.

Press on Weinberger's Statements

JN020822 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the caption "Aggressive Intentions," TISHRIN writes: The U.S. Administration has intensified its campaign of lies and fabrications against Syria, purely because Syria is practicing its defensive capabilites. Yesterday, Secretary of State Shultz said Syria's measure gives rise to worries in the Middle East. Similarly, Defense Secretary Weinberger made statements in which he portrayed Syria as being a sphere of influence, an arsenal or a bridgehead that can be used by others for infiltrating other Middle East areas.

Naturally, the U.S. statements reflect the aggressive trend of U.S policy against Syria, because the primary objective behind this campaign is to prepare world public opinion to accept the pretexts of the premeditated aggression. Although there is no need to unearth old facts which confirm U.S. aid for the Israeli aggression, the attempt to fabricate these protexts is nevertheless being made to distract world attention from the scheme versified in the strategic cooperation agreement signed between the United States and Israeli in Washington 1 1/2 years ago.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-BA'TH writes the following comment entitled: "After Arens, Weinberger Threatens Syria." U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger considers Syria's measures to intensify its military capability in defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity a grave menace to Israel, which, according to Weinberger, should remain superior in the region and should be entitled to build settlements to defend its security.

Continuing, AL-BA'TH says: Weinberger's hostile statements come after the series of military reinforcements Israel introduced to confront the Syrian forces in Lebanon, and in the wake of the official statement that a U.S.-Israeli team is currently preparing for and studying the objectives of the aggression against Syria. At best, Weinberger's statements can only be taken as a complement to the statement made by Zionist Defense Minister Moshe Arens on a possible military blow against Syria.

Weinberger is uttering such statements although the entire world realizes that Israel is the aggressor, that it is Israel which is occupying Arab land, and that Syria is only trying to improve its defensive capabilities since Israel, with full U.S. support, occupied an important part of Syria's territory in the 1967 aggression. Weinberger's statement signifies that Syria has no right to regain its territory, and in other words, is denying its natural rights.

AL-BA'TH adds: We in this steadfast country knew well from the first day of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon that there was an integrated plan, in which some Arabs participated, aimed at peddling the Camp David accords, and later, at imposing U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the region. Since the invasion has not achieved its full objectives, we find that the partners to the plot are collectively intensifying their campaign against Syria under various covers and pretexts. the objectives of these pretexts, however, may in the end be reduced to one: wrecking Syria so the plotters enjoy a free hand to implement their plot.

Be that as it may, just as Syria's enemies have their own calculations, Arab Syria has its own calculations. Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: He who thinks that Syria is an easy prey is grossly mistaken. Syria, as it has always been, is strengthened by its people, its masses, and its friends in the world. Syria is now more than capalbe of defending itself.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD TO VISIT ALGERIA SOON

GF011342 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Feb 83 p 1

["Exclusive" dispatch from Algiers]

[Text] AL-WATAN has learned from informed Algerian sources that President Hafiz al-Asad will pay a visit to Algeria during the next few days.

In light of this visit's result, all the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution factions will be recalled.

REPORTAGE ON KHALDAH TALKS ON LEBANON

Clash of Views

TA011239 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Israel and Lebanon clashed at the opening of the 19th round of their talks in the Lebanese resort of Khaldah this morning. The clash was over Israel's insistence spelled out by delegation head David Kinche that there is no change in Israel's position. This was described as intransigent by the spokesman for the Lebanese delegation, Dawud as-Sayigh, who suggested that Israel was not prepared to accept Lebanese compromise proposals on mutual relations and security arrangements.

Following a 15-minute plenary session, Kimche and Lebanese delegation head Antoine Fattal had a private meeting before the committees on normalization and security arrangements began their sessions.

The Voice of Israel reporter at the talks, Roni Daniyel, says that the differences between the two sides on normalization are basic, while on security matters they are confined to details. The talks continue.

IDF Radio Review

TA011558 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] While no progress has been achieved on normalization in the Khaldah talks today, some has been achieved in the discussion on security arrangements for southern Lebanon. Our correspondent in Lebanon Yotam Yaqir reports from the Lebanon Beach Hotel:

[Yaqir -- live] At this morning's plenary session of the Khaldah talks, the Israeli delegation expressed an unequivocal position. Even without an explicit agreement, Israel want to establish a state of peace between the two countries. These words contain a note of criticism of the Lebanese delegation, which according to Israeli sources, is trying to make the talks meaningless. The Lebanese reject Israeli proposals while not raising alternative proposals of their own. You must progress courageously despite the obstacles in order to reach agreement, the Lebanese delegation members were told today.

Immediately after the short plenary meeting, the two subcommittees convened: the one for security arrangements, and the political subcommittee which is the committee for the arrangements of mutual relations. It seems that matters progress fairly easily in the military subcommittee; we were told that there was progress and that the atmosphere was good. The representatives sit with maps in subcommittee and discuss security arrangements. We have learned that the two sides are near agreement on the matter of integrating Major Haddad's forces into the security arrangements. The Israeli delegation rejects there being a security border with UNIFIL or a multinational force. The delegation repeated its demand for warning stations in Lebanon, another subject that appears to remain in dispute.

Meanwhile, in the political subcommittee, the two sides are still haveing trouble agreeing even on principles. The problematic matter is normalization. Today the subcommittee tried to draft formulas acceptable to both sides, but no breakthrough appears imminent. Israel has not backed down from its positions, the Foreign Ministry stressed today. Our positions are still the same, they claimed.

'Real Agreement' Wanted

TA011916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The Israel delegation spokesman to the talks in Khaldah has said that Lebanon is trying to render meaningless the agreement between the two countries. The spokesman, Yosef 'Amihud, told reporters in Khaldah that Israel does not oppose the idea of proposals and counterproposals, but these proposals must not completely negate the idea underlying the talks, which is to create conditions of peace and security between Israel and Lebanon. Israeli sources have reported that Israeli delegation head David Kimche said in the talks that Israel wants a real agreement and not just promises. The Lebanese delegation spokesman has reported that the head of his delegation, Antoine Fattal, answered that the delegations came to Khaldah to negotiate, and not to repeat their initial positions. However, the two delegations' spokesmen said that Kimche was speaking generally and did not explicitly reject even one of the proposals that Philip Habib had devised.

ARENS TOURS LEBANON; U.S. UNIT SAID OUT OF AREA

TA011722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens returned from a visit to northern Israel and Lebanon a short while ago. He first visited the northern command, where he heard reports by the head of the command, Amir Drori, and senior officers in his headquarters. Afterwards, Arens flew to Lebanon, where he visited an armored unit near Beirut and another unit in the Ash-Shuf mountains. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that when Arens was traveling on the road separating the IDF forces from the multinational force soldiers, he noticed a U.S. Marine unit patroling in the area under our forces' control. The Marines left the area after the commander of the IDF forces in the sector spoke to them.

The defense minister is considering appointing for himself a military secretary with the rank of brigadier general, our military correspondent has learned. This rank is higher than that of the minister's military aide-de-camp. The position of military secretary was abolished when Ari'el Sharon was defense minister. He used to report directly to the prime minister or through the prime minister's adviser. Meanwhile, a proposal has also been raised to appoint for the prime minister also a military secretary with the rank of brigadier general.

Arens Comments

TA011938 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The new defense minister, Moshe Arens, today instructed the chief of staff and the Northern Command officers to do everything they could to avoid casualties among the IDF ranks. The defense minister toured the Beirut area and observed the Syrian deployment.

Some soldiers asked Mr Arens when the IDF would withdraw from Lebanon, and he replied: We will not leave without an arrangement. We do not need a commitment to a timetable, the defense minister said. First of all we need the commitment from all the parties involved to hold negotiations and reach an arrangement. The defense minister asked the IDF officers to avoid incidents with members of the multinational force. Before touring the Beirut area, Mr Arens visited the Northern Command headquarters.

UN OBSERVERS' SPOKESMAN CITED ON MANDATE

TA011246 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Reacting to this morning's reports of tension between Israeli troops and UN observers in the Beirut area, and Israel's contention that the observers' activities were to be confined to Beirut itself, the spokesman for the observers' force has just challenged this contention. (Niels Liunden) told our reporter that it is specified in the mandate of the observers that they monitor the situation in and also around Beirut.

HADDAD: COOPERATION UNDERWAY WITH LEBANESE ARMY

TA011551 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Major Sa'd Haddad has said that the first patterns of cooperation have already been established between him and four Lebanese Army battalions stationed in the south. Haddad told our correspondent Hayim Hecht: We are defending the Lebanese Army in the south, supplying it with logistical support, but we cannot rely on it because many of its soldiers and officers collaborated with the PLO. Our correspondent reports that another unit of Haddad's forces took up positions in Sidon today.

TALKS WITH EGYPT RESUME IN ISMAILIA 2 MAR

TA020512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The talks between Israel and Egypt over the future of Tabah resume in Ismailia today. The talks will last 2 days and are designed to determine interim arrangements until the final status of the disputed area has been stipulated. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer points out that political officials believe that the resumption of the talks shows a certain improvement in relations between the two countries, relations which deteriorated greatly in the wake of the Lebanon war. Our correspondent notes that Israel has in fact foregone its position that the talks with Egypt simultaneously deal with all the disputed matters. Although both sides have agreed in principle to resume talks about the normalization agreements, no date has been set yet and this point will also be discussed in Ismailia.

Delegation Leaves for Talks

TA020833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Israeli delegation to the talks with Egypt over Tabah left this morning for Ismailia. The delegation is headed by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Shmu'el Divon and Brigadier General Dov Si'on. The talks between Israel and Egypt are resuming after an interval of 10 months.

EGYPTIANS REPORTEDLY THREATEN FISHING YACHT

TA011628 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Elat, 1 Mar (ITIM) -- Another incident involving an Egyptian patrol boat and an Israeli motorboat occurred this afternoon near the inlet south of Elat.

A motorboat called "Angelica," navigated by Avino'am Tzova nicknamed Jackson, with a German tourist couple on board left Elat this morning heading for the inlet to fish in the area. When the three people on deck reached about 150 meters from the "sun pool" near the inlet, they cast their anchor and began fishing. A few minutes later, near 1300, an Egyptian patrol vessel suddenly appeared with a heavy machinegun at the bow, and approached the little boat menacingly.

Jackson, who lived on Coral Island for 15 years until the evacuation of southern Sinai, told the ITIM correspondent in Elat that some 20 Egyptian policemen armed with Kalashnikovs were on deck, adding that he believes they were soldiers. He said they threatened him with the arms and shouted that this was Egyptian territory and he has no business being there. The two German tourists told the Egyptians that they were only tourists who had come to fish. The Egyptian officer told them they must follow him for questioning in Nuwaybi'. Jackson refused to do so and announced that he was going back to Elat, at which point a loud argument erupted, in the course of which the parties exchanged harsh words. The Egyptians again approached him and cut the anchor rope with a knife. When Jackson saw that the situation was getting worse, he decided to flee by tilting the engine and gliding fast above the coral reefs heading northward. This way he managed to escape the pursuing Egyptian patrol boat which was afraid of nearing the coast because of the danger of running aground. At around 1500, when the two vessels passed Coral Island, the chase ended. The Egyptians gave up and reversed course.

It should be noted that this is the second incident in a few days involving Egyptian soldiers. Less than a week ago two Nature Preservation Society rangers were kidnapped around Tabah and brought back 24 hours later following the intervention of the joint Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee. This patrol boat probably belongs to the Egyptian naval base at Sharm ash-Shaykh.

MINISTER SHAMIR MEETS WITH NORWEGIAN COUNTERPART

TA011200 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] For 2 and 1/2 hours Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir talked with Norwegian Foreign Minister Svenn Stray today. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami is on the phone to us from the Foreign Ministry:

[Ben-'Ami -- live] Minister Shamir asked the visitor to review his impressions of his visits to Egypt and Jordan. The visiting minister emphasized that Egypt was faithful to its commitment to the Camp David agreements. In Jordan, in contrast to this, the Norwegian foreign minister found fears of Israeli intentions, as he phrased it, regarding Jordan's joining the autonomy negotiations. Minister Shamir told his guest that this Jordanian approach was not understandable to Israel, which was hoping for Jordan to join the autonomy talks. As for the statement by Egyptian Minister of State Butrus Ghali in Rome last night about the cool relations with Israel, Shamir stressed that we were disappointed at Egypt not honoring the treaties. Egypt's desire to return to the Arab world was understandable to Israel, and Israel hopes that Europe will help Egypt but also put pressure on it to remain loyal to the Camp David agreements.

On Lebanon, Minister Shamir reported to his guest on the talks and explained to him the importance of developing the relations between Israel and Lebanon, and the arrangements in southern Lebanon between the IDF and Lebanon. There is no room for an international force on the Israeli-Lebanese border, a force that cannot fight the PLO if it tries to return there, Minister Shamir said. Israel's relations with Norway were described as very good. The Norwegian minister, at the end of the talk, explained that Norway had criticism of Israel and had expressed it, but relations were very good.

BRITISH MP CONVEYS MESSAGE FROM HUSAYN

TA010959 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Mar 83 p 6

[Report by Avi Meller and Refa'el Mann]

[Excerpt] "King Husayn is definitely serious in his efforts to join the circle of peace talks in the Middle East, and he hopes that Israel will ease his imminent integration into the negotiations." This message was conveyed to the Israeli Government by British MP Julian Amery, who is known for his close contacts with Arab leaders. Amery conferred last week with King Husayn in London. Amery, a member of the Conservative Party, met yesterday with Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor, who is visiting in London. Amery asked him to convey his remarks to the Israeli Government.

Savidor refused to disclose the contents of the message. He said that he would brief Prime Minister Begin about the meeting.

Amery also conferred in Amman with the top echelon of the Jordanian Government. He gathered the impression that this is the most propitious time for making a breakthrough that would lead to a new era in the peace process in the Middle East.

Savidor Bringing Message

TA020730 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Report from London by Yosi Melman -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Husayn will soon make an official announcement that he recognizes Israel and that he is willing to negotiate with it. At the same time, he will announce that he is joining the Middle East peace process. This is the message that Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor is bringing from London today. Savidor heard about it in a meeting with British MP's, headed by Conservative Party member Julian Amery, a friend of Israel in that party. The MP's met King Husayn about a week ago and Husayn explicitly told them that he is ready to recognize Israel and join the negotiations. King Husayn said that he enjoys the support of Iraq and the Palestinian inhabitants on both sides of the Jordan River, as he phrased it, on this issue.

Nevertheless, the Knesset speaker expressed his apprehension that the integration of King Husayn into the negotiations might create problems within the coalition in Israel because King Husayn's willingness and his demand that Israel freeze settlements in the West Bank will be unacceptable to the Israeli Government.

SYRIAN DOCUMENTS ON SAM-5'S REPORTEDLY CAPTURED

TA011925 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Knesset Speaker Manahem Savidor has revealed in London that in the war in Lebanon, Israel captured Syrian documents about the SAM-5's, and he declared that it would pass them on to its allies. Speaking at a press conference in London, Savidor added that Israel captured information about other sophisticated Soviet-made weapons. Savidor accused the Soviet Union of propagandizing that Israel intends to attack Syria to detract from the greatness of Israel's successes in Lebanon.

LEBANON WAR INTELLIGENCE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO U.S.

TA011825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The U.S. secretary of defense has transmitted to the defense minister a draft agreement saying that Israel would pass on to the United States intelligence information it collected during the war in Lebanon. The Pentagon spokesman reported that this draft was given to Arens on the eve of his return to Israel. The document is concise and simpler than the one submitted by Israel which the United States refused to sign. The U.S. Administration argued at the time it does not accept the limitations Israel was imposing on the transfer of information.

The defense minister told his U.S. counterpart that there are people in Israel who want to cause misunderstandings between them, and the Department of Defense spokesman said that this was stated yesterday in a telephone conversation Arens and Weinberger held. In that conversation, Arens denied reports that he had accused Weinberger of being hostile toward Israel because of the business connections he had with Saudi Arabia.

ARENS DECIDES SAGI SHOULD 'TERMINATE' DUTIES

TA011043 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1028 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens decided yesterday that Major General Sagi should terminate his duties today, in keeping with the recommendations of the commission of inquiry into the massacre in Beirut. This is reported by our military correspondent Hayim Ravia, who adds that many names were raised as a temporary replacement to the post of chief of IDF intelligence. Among others, the name of former chiefs of intelligence -- including Major General in the Reserves Shlomo Gazit, who preceded Major General Sagi -- were mentioned. It was ultimately decided that Brigadier General Arye Ben-Tov, who is the current chief intelligence officer, will temporarily serve in the post of chief of IDF intelligence. The next chief will probably be appointed by the next chief of staff.

Sagi 'Has Future in IDF'

TA011823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The defense minister has made it clear to Major General Yehoshu'a Sagi that there is no intention of asking him to retire from the IDF, adding that in the future he would fulfill important roles. A short ceremony will be held at the General Staff Command next week, in which the defense minister and the IDF major generals will take leave of Major General Sagi.

BURG RETURNS FROM FRG; GENSCHER 'UNDERSTANDING'

TA011001 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 1 Mar 83 p 4

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Interior and Religious Affairs Minister Dr Yosef Burg has returned from a visit in the FRG where he conferred with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and discussed bilateral relations. There has been a good relationship between the two men since 1972. Dr Burg yesterday stated that he found Genscher deeply understanding of Israel's problems and its status in the Western and democratic world.

Dr Burg said that a favorable change in the atmosphere toward Israel is discernable in West Germany. This change is not related to the internal election campaign, but stems from the fact that the truth has meanwhile emerged regarding the war in Lebanon and Israel's vital need to protect itself by means of a military operation in southern Lebanon.

Throughout West Germany there is great appreciation for the appointment of the commission of inquiry, the release of its findings, and their implementation by the government. Intellectuals stressed that no other country in the world has adopted such high moral standards on its own initiative, Dr Burg added.

Dr Burg also conferred with leaders of the Jewish communities in Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, and Berlin, and conducted an extense information compaign on German television and other media. He also met the staff of the Israeli Embassy in Bonn.

WEST BANK ARAB REACTION TO PNC RESOLUTIONS

TA261057 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Report by Judaea and Samaria correspondent Arye Gus on reactions of West Bank and Gaza Strip inhabitants to the PNC deliberations and resolutions -- recorded, with West Bank leaders recorded earlier]

[Text] When the deliberations of the Palestine National Council [PNC] were over and the concluding resolutions were aired, the inhabitants of the territories drew a sigh of relief. The fear that the PLO might split over disputed questions dissipated. The head of the students' union in An-Najah University in Nabulus told us with satisfaction: Anybody who pinned his hopes on the splitting of the PLO was proven wrong. The democratic process had the upper hand.

The question which almost led to a split within the PLO was, of course, the question of joining the political process: Should the PLO support the Reagan plan? Should it effect rapproachement with Jordan and continue the dialogue with it?

The supporters of the rejectionist front in the territories, including the communists, ruled out a rapproachement with Jordan and the United States. However, the supporters of the major group within the PLO, Fatah, mobilized their maximum resources to exert influence on the PNC, and for the first time it appears that the voice of the inhabitants of the territories was decisive. Hikmat al-Masri was one of the PLO pioneers, later the head of the Jordanian Parliament, and today one of the leaders of the major stream in the West Bank:

[Al-Masri -- in English] People and the leaders of the West Bank have played a big role in making the resolutions moderate, by declarations in the press and meetings with some of the PLO leaders. We have explained to them the situation, the deteriorated situation in the West Bank in all aspects.

[Gus translates and continues] Hikmat al-Masri says that the deterioration in the situation was explained to the PLO leaders, the fact that the time factor works against the inhabitants of the territories, that there is a threat of expropriation of lands, and a threat of settlements. We have a feeling, the deposed Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa says, that the PNC is aware of the danger and will take measures to curb this phenomenon:

[Ash-Shawwa -- in English] The residents of the territories, the inhabitants of the territories, feel much more at ease because they have been able to convey to the Palestine National Council the real threat under which they live in the occupied territories, and that is basically due, at this stage anyway, basically due to confiscation of land and erection of new settlements all over the occupied territories.

[Gus] And indeed, the PNC has decided to set up a special fund to fight against the Judaizing of land, a synonym for settlement. All are convinced that the resolutions of the PNC constitute adoption of the political road, although the military option has not been neglected either. Interestingly enough, all groups can find a line acceptable to them in the resolutions.

Those who are opposed to rapprochement with Jordan point to the rejection of the Reagan plan, stating that this is a total rejection. The Fatah and 'Arafat supporters say that there is an opening for rapprochement and a dialogue with the United States; it is the moderate line which prevailed. Hikmat al-Masri:

[Al-Masri -- in English] The moderate line has now won on the hardline. The example is that they did not refuse the Reagan plan totally.

[Gus] The majority of the inhabitants of the territories are convinced that the PNC resolutions have also provided Yasir 'Arafat with a mandate to keep up the dialogue with Jordan. There has indeed been no mention of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation for conducting the negotiations, but the prevailing view is that 'Arafat has received the go-ahead to start the negotiations.

[Al-Masri -- in English] I am inclined to believe that it had given the light to King Husayn to start negotiations, escpecially we will be assured more when Yasir '
Arafat comes and expresses to King Husayn what happened in the National Assembly.

[Gus -- translates and continues] Will you be prepared to participate in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation? We asked Hikmat al-Masri. It is premature to talk about this, he answered.

The inhabitants of the territories point out another important point evolving as a result of the PNC talks: The adoption of the resolution to empower 'Arafat to continue the dialogue with progressive Israeli elements. This is the only way, Mr Barakat, a lecturer at An-Najah Unviversity, says:

[Barakat -- in English] Obviously one of the main points of the PNC was the go-ahead to Yasir 'Arafat to enhance his line of holding debates and discussions with Israelis, and this is the only way.

[Gus] What will the effect of the PNC session on the territories be? The unity demonstrated there, it is said, will be reflected in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. 'Arafat's strengtened status will rally the inhabitants of the territories around him, and the moderating power of the inhabitants of the territories will increase. On the other hand, the PNC resolutions may silence new initiatives inside the territories. When we asked Hikmat al-Masri whether the PNC resolutions are compatible with the petitions he organized and disseminated prior to the council session, he excitedly answered: This document I initiated is dead; it is a historical document and we should forget about it. We are now committed to the decisions of the Palestine National Council.

NEW YORK MAYOR KOCH MEETS BEGIN, SHAMIR

TA281122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] New York Mayor Ed Koch met this morning with the prime minister and the foreign minister. After their meeting, he could report no politically earth-shattering news. He said in addition:

[Begin Koch recording -- in English] My recollection is that obviously they are hopeful that King Husayn will join the talks and it seems to me he should. After all, I think more than 50 percent of the population of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is made up of Palestinians. [end recording]

[Announcer translates Koch's remarks into Hebrew and continues] The New York mayor departs back for New York tomorrow.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID INTERVIEWED PRIOR TO NONALIGNED SUMMIT

LD011256 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 1/3/83 (APS) -- President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN party secretary general, granted an interview to the Indian journalist Mr Razdan Maharadj Krishin [name as received], director of London Bureau of PTI press agency on the eve of the non-aligned movement seventh summit.

As concerns the seventh summit, President Chadli said that it is going to be held in an extremely complex and deliberate environment in which the political difficulties are deeply affected by the international economic crisis. He further added that the unity and the solidarity between the non-aligned members are the only factors able to help them work on the basis of strict respect of the principles in the sense of justice and peace. He also said that the Algerian delegation is determined to contribute positively to this effort of unity and solidarity.

Concerning the important role played by the African countries within the movement President Chadli Bendjedid said that Africa is the only continent whose all the independent countries are members of the movement. This fact is of a high meaning. "Africa is submitted to high and multiple pressures aimed at destabilizing some regimes and thwart efforts of economic and social development of our peoples. I think that the African states which will be present in New Delhi will explain, each on in his way, and according to each one's experience the African's perception of the dangers which threaten and the way in which the Non-aligned Movement can contribute to cope with them."

As concerns the diversity of the African countries' views as concerns the important question, the movement is faced up with, President Chadli said: Diversity is not synonymous of divergence. In fact Africa is relatively united as concerns the crucial questions which rises among the movement. Naturally it is a matter of fifty states whose orientations are not always similar and which have not necessarily the same perception as concerns all African problem. But it is remarkable that each time that African countries have met a consensus is worked out during to their concertation over a big number of political problems. [sentence as received]

"We are confident and optimistic as for the possibilities to help out OAU from the deadlock in which it is found today and will not surrender to the provocations aimed at destroying our continental organisation.

"Moreover, the support for the liberation movements, for peoples' self-determination and respect of existing frontiers are consecrated principles by the continental organisation since it creation. The Western Sahara's future itself cannot be a matter of protest since a consesus has been worked out during the OAU 18th summit over the recognition of the Sahrawi people's right for self-determination.

"Algeria," he underlined," remains available to contribute to the promotion of a just and a lasting peace in the region and will save no effort able to consolidate the African unity".

As concerns the North-South cooperation, President Chadli said: "The North-South cooperation is in fact in deadlock. In Algiers' non-aligned summit in 1973 we launched the idea of new international economic order. In Havana, in 1979. Algeria advocated global negotiations.

"This remains today, the only valuable way to engage dialogue with the other side. The international new economic order does not concern only the North-South cooperation. The collective autonomy of the developing countries and the South-South cooperation are an essential element. So many progress were made on basis of directing principles adopted in Havana summit in 1979. But a lot remains to be done. On its part Algeria engaded a very active and a very diversified cooperation with many countries of the south."

Answering a question concerning the present state of bilateral relations between Algeria and India, President Chadli Bendjedid said: "I can say that the relations between Algeria and India are excellent. They had been so from the beginning, before our independence. India backed up our liberation struggle and our two countries have always cooperated rightly within the United Nations and within the framework of the non-aligned summit. This cooperation begins now to be shaped. It is already going beyond the traditional scheme of commercial exchanges to be extended to a wide scheme of valorization of our complementarities."

APN CHAIRMAN LEAVES FOR IRAN 28 FEBRUARY

LD011133 Algiers APS in English 1034 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 1/3/83 (APS) -- The chairman of the People's National Assembly (APN) Rabah Bitat left yesterday for Tehran on an official visit to Iran.

This visit at the invitation of Majlis' President Hashemi-Rafsanjani comes to reinforce relations of friendship and cooperation between Algeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The two heads of parliaments will examine bilateral relations and questions of common interest.

LIBYA

MOROCCAN MOTIVES IN SAHARA QUESTIONED

LD010155 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] It is not a falsehood nor an exaggeration when we frankly say that Moroccan King Hassan II is the main and direct cause of the state of Arab collapse and ruin. The Moroccan king is the one who is directly responsible for including the Arab area in the U.S. sphere of influence. He is the one who paved the way for the Zionist death train and who caused the bloody tragedy that has fallen on the Lebanese and Palestinian people. He is the architect of the plans of liquidation and capitulation and the one who arranged the Fes summit of shame and treason. He is the U.S. key that led to the fall of Egypt into the Camp David enclosure.

This regime is also being used today as a tool to liquidate the revolutionary eruption which was manifested by the revolution of the Saharan people against Spanish colonialism in the Saguia El Hamra and Oued Ed Dahab The Sararan people nearly succeeded in reaping the fruit of their revolution but the Moroccan regime quickly robbed them of victory by occupying the country with the excuse that it is part of Moroccan soil. If this claim was true, where was this regime when the Saharan war of liberation was in full swing? Why did it not make this claim when Spanish colonialism ruled the Saguia El Hamra and Oued Ed Dahab?

The issue here is not one of ownership but of the existence of a truly liberating revolution on this land that is hostile to colonialist influence and decaying reaction and that is calling for progress and unity on the basis of militant pan-Arab liberating foundations. This revolution was able to change the course of life and history in that area through the growth of its revolutionary and liberating tide in the Arab Maghreb, with the goal to destroy all U.S. imperialist bridgeheads and hireling reactionary states, headed by the Moroccan royalist regime.

One question remains to be answered: Where are both the overt and clandestine opposition in Morocco? Where is it in the face of these lunatic, foolhardy, and reckless policies that Hassan II follows? If Moroccan opposition dares not even to say no in the face of this regime -- and it is a constitutional word in any event -- it is better that it dissolves itself and goes underground to become the clandestine opposition and demolish the structure of this regime by means of popular revolution. This is the basic and decisive solution to all the national Moroccan problems and their pan-Arab dimensions.

MOROCCO

REACTION TO HASSAN-BENDJEDID MEETING REPORTED

LD011346 Rabat MAP in English 1158 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Rabat, March 1 (MAP) -- Guinean President Haj Ahmed Sekou Toure sent a message to King Hassan II of Morocco, in which he expressed his "great joy" upon hearing of the "meeting between the heads of the two brotherly states of Morocco and Algeria."

Underlining that this "event fits within the historical logic regulating relations between the neighbouring countries", President Sekou Toure added that this "resumption of dialogue is considered by us as the beginning of a process leading the two peoples and their governments towards objectives of grandeur and constant development."

In Tunis, President Bourguiba hailed the meeting last Saturday between King Hasan II and President Bendjedid, declared Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi on Monday to the Tunisian news agency "TAP".

Mr es-Sebsi said that "President Bourguiba, who followed with satisfaction the news about this meeting, hails this new initiative between brothers and sees in it a new stimulant for pursuing the joint action in favour of reinforcing friendship relations, coopertion, and complementarity among the countries of the great Maghreb."

Mr es-Sebsi added saying that "Tunisia, who follows very closely the development of relations among the countries in the region, sincerely wishes that other stages be covered for the good of the great Arab Maghreb."

To conclude, Mr es-Sebsi said that "the construction of the great Arab Maghreb is a stage on the road unity, the joining of the Arab nation's efforts to back just causes and its development."

In London, Dr Omar al-Hassan, representative of the Arab League in London, told "MAP" on Monday that the meeting last Saturday between King Hassan II and President Bendjedid will contribute to reinforcing Arab positions on the international scene and should serve as an example for ironing out Arab differences.

Expressing faith in the widsom of both heads of state, Dr al-Hassan concluded saying, "We expect that understanding between Morocco and Algeria will cover important phases."

GAMBIAN PRESIDENT, DELEGATION ARRIVE 28 FEB

LD011416 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Fes, March 1 (MAP) -- The president of Gambia, Sir Dawda Jawara, arrived on Monday afternoon in Fes where he would meet with King Hassan II of Morocco.

Sir Dawda Jawara, who is on a few day state visit to Morocco, is accompanied by his spouse and by an important delegation including the minister of foreign affairs and several top officials.

Upon arrival in Casablanca airport earlier in the day, the president of Gambia said he was happy to visit Morocco and honoured to attend the festivities marking the 22nd anniversary of the enthronement of King Hassan II to be celebrated on March 3rd.

Sir Dawda Jawara also underlined the close ties existing between Morocco and Gambia and the close collaboration and friendship existing between himself and King Hassan II.

IRAQI FINANCE MINISTER HOLDS TALKS 28 FEB

LD011446 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Rabat, March 1 (MAP) -- Visiting Iraqi minister of finance, Mr Thamir Razzuqi, held separate talks in Rabat on Monday afternoon, with the Moroccan minister of trade, industry and tourism, Mr Azzedine Guessous, and the minister of marine fisheries and merchant navy, Mr Bensalek Smili.

Mr Razzuqi's talks with the two Moroccan ministers focused on means of strengthening bilateral relations in various fields.

SUDAN

'ARAFAT COMMENTS ON JUBA HONORARY DEGREE

EA012038 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, returned to Khartoum from Juba last night after a 1-day visit during which an honorary doctorate was conferred on him. Here is a recording of the statement made to our reporter by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on his visit to Juba:

[Begin recording] I certainly regard this visit as one of the happiest moments of my life -- my making this visit for the first time. I have seen and felt true brotherhood, warm friendship, and deep and consistent nobility in southern Sudan. I have also felt the extent of support and backing for the just cause of our people, the cause of our Palestinian people, from the masses of our people in the south, local government, loving brothers, university colleagues, and persevering students.

The great honor conferred on me by the University of Juba is an embodiment of this brotherhood and revolutionary nobility. This degree is not just for me personally, but for our militant and fighting people who are facing the imperialist and Zionist onslaught. This brotherhood and nobility have found in our brothers in the south a true expression of the fraternal, strategic, and noble relationship between us and our brothers in southern Sudan.

Once again, I wish, in the name of our people and our revolutionaries and fighters, to convey through your medium to all our brothers in the south and the north, the most sincere sentiments of brotherhood and affection.

We stand together until victory, and to Jerusalem, God willing, until our people's flag rises over the minarets and church towers of Jerusalem, with God's help. Revolution until victory. [end recording]

Departs Khartoum

JN021136 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Mar (SUNA) -- Palestinian struggler Yasir 'Arafat left here today after a 3-day visit to Sudan. During his visit, Abu 'Ammar held talks with President Numayri and made a speech before the SSU National Congress. He also paid a short visit to the southern region, where he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Juba.

Seeing the Palestinian leader off were Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president, and a number of national action leaders and people's armed forces commanders.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES UGANDAN VICE PRESIDENT

JN011542 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1427 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (SUNA) -- Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic and of the SSU, received here this morning Palo Munwanga, Ugandan vice president, defense minister, and head of the Ugandan delegation to the Fourth SSU National Congress.

In a statement following the meeting, Muwanga expressed his thanks for the invitation extended to his country to participate in the congress. He pointed out that he conveyed to President Numayri greetings from Ugandan President Milton Obote and the people and Government of Uganda.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and means to promote them. Both sides also exchanged views on regional and international matters.

At the end of his statement, Muwanga expressed his admiration for the precise organization of the Fourth SSU National Congress.

The meeting was attended by the Sudanese ambassador to Uganda and the Ugandan charge d'affaires in Khartoum.

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH JORDAN'S SULAYMAN 'ARAR

JN281848 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (SUNA) -- Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, SSU chairman and president of the republic, has stressed the need for Arab support for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, one of the confrontation states with the enemy and the one which has the longest borderline with Israel.

This came during his excellency's meeting with Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the Jordanian National Consultative Council and head of his country's delegation to the Fourth SSU Congress, and Mahmud al-Qa'id, editor in chief of AR-RA'Y newspaper, the dean of journalists, and member of the Jordanian delegation.

Sulayman 'Arar said that President Numayri spoke during the meeting on vital Arab issues, foremost among them the central Arab issue -- the Palestinian issue. 'Arar spoke about the bilateral relations between Sudan and Jordan. He said that President Numayri had asked him to convey his and the Sudanese people's greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people.

SUDAN

TEXT OF NUMAYRI ADDRESS AT SSU CONGRESS

JN261931 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 26, (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Numayri today made a comprehensive presentation of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) political programme and that of its president for the second term when he addressed the opening session of (SSU) Fourth National Congress this morning.

Here below is the official translation of the text:

Dear brothers, delegates to the Fourth National Congress of the Sudanese Socialist Union:

I extend my greetings and compliments on the confidence that has been entrusted to you by our people, by their institution and its various organs. You assemble as spokesmen for the people, their labour force, various social segments, cultural groupings, the nomads and town people whether they be young or old, men or women in the valley or the hill.

You are here to symbolize unity and solidarity, hopes and aspirations. Together we orchestrate the tune for our forward march in this Fourth Conference of the Sudanese Socialist Union which I now declare open.

A provincial progress of comprehensive political action by the Sudanese Socialist Union has been submitted by the chairman who is also the candidate for a third term of office as president of the republic. This programme has been inspired by the accumulated experience of a long arduous struggle with the mixed fortunes of failure and success. We have closely studied what we have been through, discussed and listened to what others have to offer and tried to maintain an honest, critical approach.

We aim for a programme to guide, promote and improve future action. It is firmly based on past achievements and inspired by dedicated revolutionary action during two mandates of presidential rule.

However momentous, past achievement would not have been possible without popular support and participation. It is therefore necessary that the present programme should be consistent, should satisfy popular aspirations, and should realistically guide possible future action. In short, it should indicate what is to be done now that we have tried to mobilize both our creative national spirit and vast material resources for another leap foward. It is for you to infuse and coordinate moral values of goodness, honesty, and justice so that original, virtuous pattern will emerge. Our banners carry the slogan of self dependence, self respect and self control for it is through these that we can devise the means to solve our pressing problems. Neither the charity of others nor the touch of a magic wand present ready made answers. These rest within our fortitude, determination and integrity to explore and bring forth the secret treasures of our land.

Self dependence is not merely to rely on the material wealth of country and people but should signify far deeper connotations of piety, fortitude, austerity, restraint, perseverance, patience and the fear of God. Independence should express a form of self-respect before greed and extravagant flamboyance. It would manifest itself in virtuous simplicity, austerity and moderation that will not be dazzled by novelty nor stayed by cupidity.

We shall draw upon the great spiritual reserces of our faith, our national traditions and culture to promote moderation as a means of compromise and of justice for all without fanatical bigotry. Our way of life should not only reflect this spiritual rectitiude but should transmit its qualities to the new generation so that they may preserve and promote these traditions.

This provisional programme lays special emphasis on eight themes which are pertinent to the present survey and which significantly stress political, social and economic problems. Chapter one deals with the evolution of political activity, the options imposed by nation building, the quest for unity, the problems of development and the equitable distribution of wealth. Our concept of unity is that it supercedes sectarian, tribal and localized loyalties and should dispense with manifestations of isolationism, diversiveness and disintegration in order that cohesion may blossom. The values of national unity as well as a sense of belonging and of loyalty to country should prevail. It goes without saying that the organizational theory on which the S.S.U. is founded should be reconciled to its political philosophy for greater harmony between cause and effect. The S.S.U. has to be transformed into an all embracing national organization, a single institution capable of absorbing minor variation and sectorial allegiance into a forceful unified national resurgence.

Our primary duty will therefore be to observe that our political choice will transform and dominate not only the programmes but also the framework, the traditions and all manifestation of political activity. That in turn shall [be] critically assessed so that drawbacks and deviations will be checked and a consistent application can be observed. Such reappraisal should not be mistaken for relapse nor should revision be taken for retreat.

Several approaches have been proposed in order to vitalize the S.S.U. namely:

(A) To rekindle the spark of intellectual vigour and organizational talent.

(B) To generate greater cultural activity through the contribution of thinkers, talented artists, writers by holding exhibitions, seminars and through a more forceful press.

(C) To infuse more action into youth movements based on greater intellectual, cultural and artistic contribution, more vigorous physical training, youth camps, national service, civil defense, more imaginative national festivals and more appealing programmes for school holidays.

(D) To stress the revolution's bias in favour of the rights of women by recognizing their right to independent being, to equal social rights, to public office and social participation.

(E) To take the lead by observing national occasions in a more meaningful manner stressing their political significance and nationalist connotations, evoking loyalty and patriotism.

(F) To uproot groups of dissent that aim to undermine and demoralize the S.S.U. by provocation, conflict and agitation. There should be a spirit of solidarity and comradeship.

(G) To scrutinize our performance at large and try to verify whether the S.S.U. is truly open to all, subject of course to the rules that govern admission. If so, is the organization adaptable enough? Is it truly representative? What structural changes does it need in order to accommodate the new regional formation?

The relationship between the political organization and the executive organs has been shrouded in ambiguity and confusion. Despite the fact that our political system does not recognize any form of party-state regime, the S.S.U. does admittedly have a constitutional standing since the S.S.U. is recognized in Article IV of the Constitution as representing the right of the alliance of labour forces to guide national endeavour and to promote democracy, socialism and national unity. We are entitled to a clearer definition of terms such as authority [over] alliance of labour forces and how this authority is actually exercised.

It does not justify the displacement of other executive powers by the S.S.U., whose role is that of arbiter of the national policy and leader of social and popular forces. The S.S.U. should mobilize, educate and inspire those forces, for without the support of the masses there can be neither victory nor success. Our political leadership should therefore effectively play the pioneering role to which it is entitled.

Although it is not called upon to assume the responsibilities of executive and professional organs, the S.S.U. should offer its dedicated and competent adherents to assume senior and effective public offices. They in turn will be expected to put S.S.U. programmes into effect and to propagate the values for which the S.S.U. stands.

There could be no more eloquent demonstration of this approach than the nomination of the chairman of the S.S.U. as a candidate to presidency of the republic. You have before you a revised form of the basic statute wherein new provisions are introduced.

The second chapter of our programme reviews the economic policy, its strategy methods and instruments with a detailed exposition of the mixed economy which combines public ownership and private ownership as well as their joint participation when taking major decisions.

Mixed economy does not represent a transmitional stage to be superceded by the abolition of private ownership. We view mixed economy as system that includes collective ownership governed by social democracy, popular cohesion, justice, freedom from hunger and from need.

We certainly do not aim to encourage private initiative for investment only to suppress and demolish it later. Our economic strategy tries to co-ordinate our aims for social democracy with a changing world economy as well as removing social ills and negative symptons of our national economy.

It is imperative that in our economic strategy we should take into account the sub-total of the following conceptional elements:

(A) That we face major problems with radical solutions and resist the temptation of easy and false solutions and patchwork.

(B) That we [be] wary of relapsing into the repressive practices of restrictions and strangulation. There will never be a return to distortive regulations in economic transactions.

(C) That we be wary lest difficulties and crises lead us to despair and loss of confidence in ourselves and our country, lest we fall into the vicious circle of confusion and incoherence adopting today what was discarded yesterday.

(D) That we realise that confronting crises entails sacrifice and travail and that the rich and strong should bear the burden before the poor and weak.

(E) That we endeavour as far as possible to further democratic decision taking process in economic matters.

And lastly we lay special emphasis on the problems of socialist renewal for socialism is principles not just structures. Socialist renewal entails institutional renovation of means, tools and structures to reach the best socialist applications and answers.

The first problem of socialist renewal is the reform and renovation of public corporations. The programme offers a set of principles in the matter, the most important of them is that the public sector should pioneer the process of socio-economic development.

The second problem is how to upgrade and revive the cooperative movement as the basic socioeconomic framework for small scale production and expansion.

The third problem is how to salvage our big industrial corporations, whether private or public, and save them from bankruptcy.

The fourth problem underlines prices and incomes policy. Experience has taught us the serious repercussions of subsidising consumption at the expense of production or industry at the expense of agriculture.

The fifth problem relates to rural development which is the key to socio-economic progress for millions of our people and how to integrate rural life in national construction and production.

On the strength of the foregoing the programme lays down the economic strategic objectives and the means to achieve them as follows:

Recovery of internal financial balance.

Recovery of external financial balance.

We must free our economy of all distortions and circuitous transactions and obstacles to growth. We must have more ability, decisiveness honesty and serenity in our national economic corporations.

The programmes of socio-economic development must dovetail with the requirements of stabilisation and balanced recovery, the optimum use of resources and conscious revision of national and sectoral priorities without prejudice to the characteristics of social justice, authenticity and revival of our national pattern for development.

There will be short-term programmes to deal with emergencies, crises and loopholes.

We have repeatedly affirmed that self-help is foremost in the next few years. The Sudanese must count on themselves before counting on others. We will therefore offer our nationals, both residents and non-resident, public treasury bonds with a nominal value of one billion dollars. Those bonds will carry dividends but perhaps the biggest dividend is that of giving a helping hand to one's fatherland.

The third chapter of the programme deals with social policy and its components.

With regard to housing an effort will be made to bridge the gap between supply and demand for low income housing. Low-cost architectural models suited to our social environmental conditions will be developed. There will be new suburbs and extensions and big government houses will be turned into social and cultural public utilities and apartment buildings.

In its fourth chapter the programme deals with the system of government, the presidential regime, its historical necessity and its political and constitutional framework. Then it deals with state institutions which are no longer at the initial or experimental stage. They are now to assume their full responsibility to lead national action.

The programme introduces the principle of collective responsibility of ministers. They will also continue to be personally responsible to the president and to the People's Assembly. Government must speak with one voice. There must be coordination and cohesion procedures and measures must be introduced to spare the national leadership from details and side issues in the day-to-day conduct of state affairs. Legislative and executive institutions must fully assume their responsibilities.

The programme also calls for the establishment of new advisory organs such as the Planning and Economic Policies Committee, which is not intended to be a bureaucratic representation of the so-called concerned ministries, but a group of able and qualified politicians, economists and social scientists, a kind of think tank. One of its functions is to delimit the financial relations between central government and the regions and to lay down the general concept for the equitable distribution of resources and wealth.

In the third mandate the People's Assembly will play more active role in the early preparatory work of the budget. It must show more flexibility in dealing with provisional orders and be more effective in administrative control. It is high time that something be done in the national capital. All sorts of development projects in infrastructure, public utilities and the like abound in the regions while Khartoum is patiently waiting. We will respond to the needs of urban renewal in Khartoum. We did amend the law governing the administration of Khartoum with a view to involving the central departments with the people's local government in shouldering the tasks of urban renewal. As these tasks were thought too big for the local authorities alone, this arrangement has now been proven to be unsatisfactory. The matter has to be reviewed along these guidelines:

1. That Khartoum and its public utilities be considered as one integral entity.

2. That there be a balanced division of authority in the management of their national capital between the central government and the populace of Khartoum.

3. Technical, administrative and professional organs must be set up to carry out the tasks of urban renewal in Khartoum effectively, not piecemeal.

4. And that organs be subject to one line of command and responsibility.

Lastly the programme calls for new measures with respect to decentralized government. I will allude to them briefly.

Economic constraints will not hamper the evolution of decentralized government. We will have to do with the little we have. The programme for economic recovery and stabilization will have to be applicable at the central and the regional levels. Regional government, which is in essence decentralized power, must not degenerate into centralized regional power in place of centralized government. We will not permit such a thing.

And the third mandate will witness the devolution and delegation of powers and functions to the lower levels in the regions. The position and powers of the province commissioners will be reviewed as well as the position of the provinces as intermediate authorities between the regional and people's government and in the province of Khartoum.

Regional development is the raison d'etre for regional government. The third mandate will thus witness concerted and far reaching plans to bring about radical changes in the regions through projects in infrastructure, public utilities and in the protection of the environment and natural patrimony.

In regard to regional peoples assemblies measures will be taken to ensure effective administrative control by them on the regional governments.

In its fifth chapter the programme deals with the administration of justice. We will continue to uphold the cardinal principle of the independence of the judiciary and its ancillary constitutional and legal safeguards that independence will further be consolidated with complete judiciary will be made into more effective organ. [as received] Law reform will go on as a continuing process. There will be further devolution of judicial powers to the regions and litigation procedures will be simplified.

The attorney general's chambers will receive more attention the following years to enable them to shoulder the responsibility of drafting legislation and to administer the law relating to companies and partnerships.

We will endeavour to promote and protect the profession of advocacy, lay rules to govern the relations between the bench [words indistinct] of the profession and its ethics. The programme pays tribute to the Armed Forces, the vanguard of the revolution of 25th May. It hails its role as the shield of the fatherland against the treasonable attacks of mercenaries and traitors, as the protector of constitutional loyalty.

The duties of our regular forces, the security force, the police, the prison wardens and the fire brigades are to maintain law and order, prevent and prosecute crime and conspiracies and protect life and property.

In this context, the programme lays down a plan to upgrade the fighting capabilities of our Armed Forces to enable them to acquire advanced equipment, modern warfare techniques and undergo necessary training. We will review troop formation and deployment, armaments and training in consonance with our military doctrine, the topography and geography of the Sudan. We will upgrade specialization and fighting fitness.

The Armed Forces will be required to contribute to development and construction without prejudice to their main tasks. We will also endeavour to upgrade security services, especially in the national captial. Graduates of higher secondary schools will be recruited in the police force. Training, including specialized training equipment conditions of services will be improved. The successful experiment of the central reserve police force will be extended.

Prisons will be transferred outside urban centres to prison camps with integrated facilities. Prisoners will be trained in productive occupations to prepare them for a decent and honest living in society. Rehabilitation efforts will be intensified and the present correct and humane prison conditions will be maintained.

The fire brigades will receive more specialized training and equipment to cope with the modern on-going construction and development activities.

Lastly the Sudan wildlife requires close attention and protection. Wildlife must be protected against poaching and extinction. The environment must be protected and the Sudan scenery, verdure and wildlife will be properly used for scientific, artistic and tourism purposes. All this will require plans, capital investment and legislative amendments.

The programme for the new mandate singles [out a] chapter for our foreign policy and emphasizes its basic cornerstones of our Arab, African, Islamic affiliation, our commitment to non-alignment and to the stand of developing countries in the North-South dialogue. The basic principle of our international relations stress defense of our liberty, independence and dignity. They emphasize the protection of our national security, safety, stability and prosperity. We remain forever loyal to our Arab nation, our African homeland and to the Muslim world. We firmly support the struggle for freedom in a new world that upholds justice for the oppressed.

The Sudan will continue to strive for peace, moderation and stability in Africa and the Arab world and for better neighbourly relations without interference in internal problems. We shall not be drawn into provocation nor submit [to] blackmail or mercenary adventurism.

We shall resort to peaceful means and African ways to resolve disputes on the basis of equality and mutual respect but without the pressures of imposition. We shall continue to resist attempts to undermine African unity and stability through the creation of spheres of influence and through foreign hegemony.

Our need calls for tractors not guns and our land awaits bridges and canals not military installations. We seek shelter against famine and disease rather than self destruction. Only thus will Africa truly be land of the free, prosperity could flourish and the African genius contribute to a new rebirth.

The Sudan has been destined to play its role in this renaissance as a confluence of Arab, African and Muslim culture and shall honourably pursue its historic role of consolidating Afro-Arab solidarity in their common struggle.

The Sudan shall continue to exert a moderating influence for a peaceful and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, recognizing the legitimate rights of all peoples and the right of the Palestinian people to peace, security and national sovereignty. We support the Arab initiative of Fes and uphold the Palestine-Jordanian joint action to restore Arab momentum and to reach a compromise formula for some form of federation. We believe that prudence, moderation and solidarity will restore Egypt to her rightful place to play her vital role. Grave dangers threaten the Palestinian problem through massive evacuation of the Palestinians, attempts to destroy their potential, bloodshed and elimination escalated to a criminal magnitude that surpasses Nazi monstrosities. Israeli arrogance has caused a second Arab capital to fall through ruthless militarism and savagery.

I wish on behalf of all of us here to declare our solid support for the Lebanese people and reaffirm our belief that they will survive foreign occupation and the conspiracies to divide their country. I also greet the Palestinian National Congress during its sixteenth session for upholding the unity of their national sovereignty free of dissent, patronage or containment. We appreciate their realistic appraisal of the role of Egypt and their endeavour for closer Egyptian-Palestinian understanding. The Sudanese people wish to greet Palestinians here with us to reaffirm our support for their just cause and our belief that their present sad predicament can only add to their strength, perseverence and faith in pursuance of their noble cause. We deplore the death and destruction of war between the two Muslim countries Iraq and Iran and appeal to the authorities in Iran to desist from fanatical obstinacy, to relinquish its spirit of revenge and extend the hand of peace to Iraq. I only wish to reaffirm that the Sudan is not fighting on Iranian soil but in defence of Iraq territory and in compliance with the resolutions of the Arab summit in Fes.

The eighth and last chapter of the programme deals with the charter for integration between the Sudan and Egypt. This document is a historic landmark which constitutes relations between the two peoples of the Nile valley on the basis of equality and consent. This relationship viewed realistically in its strategic perspective has been realistically and dispassionately defined. We shall throughout our mandate exert greater efforts to realize political, economic, military, social and cultural relations which coincide with their natural and historic evolution. The Higher Council for Integration holding its first meeting in Khartoum shall stress equality of civil rights and remove restrictions on the transfer of persons on rights of residence, ownership, work and engaging in professional and economic activities. It shall do away with trade barriers and customs restriction, promote the exchange of goods, encourage the transfer of capital and profits with other measures to expand trade and economic activity over and beyond traditional trade agreements. Short-term projects will be encouraged to promote joint investment, especially for food and other agricultural products, while a basic structure will be set up for joint exploitation of our natural resources along the Nile valley.

The realization of integration has now been entrusted to our peoples to cherish, sustain and to see it confidently and freely flourish our land mass, with its formidable size, its magnificent rivers, torrential rain, majestic valleys and vast human and mineral potential can be a source for energy, health, food, tropical products and manpower.

Strategically situated on the Mediterranean and the northern reaches of the Red Sea, with the Sinai Peninsula, the vital Suez, coupled with its industrial progress and recognized civilizing mission, the northern half of the Nile valley is a source of ingenuity and vitality.

These are the landmarks of the political programme that is placed before you to study and discuss. When adopted it shall be for all of us to observe with determination and sincerity. It shall guide our programme of work and gauge the standards of our performance while mobilizing our force, describing our jobs or planning our infrastructures. It is for us to transform these theories into practice. All this calls for greater unity and stability, safety and security in a spirit of dedication for which we shall all pray.

Thank you for listening and peace be with you all.

TUNISIA

ES-SEBSI ON UPCOMING NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

LD012041 Tunis TAP in English 1418 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 1st (TAP) -- Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi left Tunis Monday for New Delhi to attend the preparatory ministerial meeting of the Non-aligned Countries' Seventh Conference.

Asked about Tunisia's estimation of the situation in the world at the eve of the summit, a spokesman from the Foreign Ministry stated that the international environment perceptibly deteriorated since the Havana conference.

Persistence of the armed conflicts, escalation of tension rivalry between superpowers together with its consequences on arm race are as much phenomena seriously threatening peace and security in the world.

"In the Middle East, the neighbouring area, the situation is really explosive. Iran and Iraq are still in conflict in spite of the various attempts to put an end to it. In southern Africa, Pretoria continues to oppose Namibia's independence and devotes itself to periodic aggression against the neighbouring states.

"In Afghanistan, the military operations are continuing whereas the situation in Kampuchea hardly improves. Finally detente in the East-West relations since the sixties starts a serious turn".

"The efforts for the restructuralization of international economic relations within the North-South dialogue must be exerted under the sign of solidarity and complementarity and not in terms of confrontation. Awareness on the need of dialogue must be aroused at the scale of humanity level. [sentence as received.

"At the non-aligned countries level South-South [as received] dialogue is an imperative which conditions their own development.

"The essential thing is to pass beyond their differences and conflicting interests and to devote their efforts to develop on solidary bases".

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES HASSAN ENVOY 1 MARCH

LD012236 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 MAR 83

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba this morning received Ahmed Ben Suda, the private envoy of King Hassan II of Morocco to his excellency the president, at his residence at Nafta. Mahmoud Mistiri, minister of state to the minister of foreign affairs, and Mohamed Tazi, Morocco's ambasador to Tunis, were present.

Following the meeting, Ahmed Ben Suda made a statement. At the beginning, he recalled the summit meeting which brought together King Hassan II and Algerian President Chaldi Bendjedid at the Moroccan-Algerian border last Saturday. He pointed out that the talks during this meeting took place in a fraternal, frank, responsible, and objective atmosphere. They concerned bilateral Algerian-Moroccan relations and the future of the cooperation of the Arab Maghreb countries which has been the dream of sincere people for a long time. His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba is considered one of the first people to fight for its realization, starting his struggle first as a student, then as leader of a party, and finally, as a leader of state.

Ahmed Ben Suda went on to say: In light of these latest developments, King Hassan II is striving to dispatch private envoys to some of his friends, headed by President Habib Bourguiba, who is linked with the monarch of Morocco by excellent fraternal bonds, to explain the results of this meeting and the hopes built upon it. He hopes this meeting will be a new step toward realizing the greater Arab Maghreb sought by all.

CAMEROON

BIYA RECOMMENDS 1983-84 AUSTERITY BUDGET

AB011529 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] President Paul Biya has recommended austerity in the preparation of the 1983-84 budget. Speaking at a Cabinet meeting in Yaounde yesterday, the head of state said the preparation of the next budget should be guided by rigor, prudence, and austerity in public expenditure. The Cabinet meeting reviewed internal issues including the president's recent official visit to the northwest and the littoral provinces and the second international medical day held in Yaounde. It also reviewed Cameroon's external policy with regard to nonalignment, the recent visit to France by the head of state aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and the redressing of the present bilateral trade imbalance to the disadvantage of Cameroon.

CHAD

BARDAI RADIO: U.S., FRANCE OPPRESS CHADIANS

AB010829 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Station commentary: "Chad, the Center of Attraction for the French and U.S. Policy of Imperialism"]

[Text] After its successive failures in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and in the Middle East, the United States is trying to achieve in Chad what it failed to achieve anywhere else. It is doing this with the complicity of its local lackeys whom it brought into power. The latter are now facing a mounting popular revolt. In order to enable them to win popularity among the Chadian masses who rejected them right from the start, the United States has just granted its lackeys considerable aid worth $10 million, that is about 3 billion CFA.

As for Mitterand's France, it is not remaining inactive. It has also just granted the Habre clique aid totaling 1 billion CFA, allegedly to be used in an integrated development program in the south of the country.

For the disgusted Chadian people, that is nothing but a (?deceitful scheme). Through this gesture, the United States wants to control the huge mineral resources of our country. But the Chadian people are not naive. What can the United States do against such determined people as the Chadians? In spite of the presence of its military advisers in Chad and the considerable financial and economic assistance to its unconditional lackeys in Ndjamena, will the United States succeed in checking the Chadian people's revolutionary drive?

Plots hatched by the United States against the Chadian people are not a novelty. It all started when the United States propelled its secret agent Hissein Habre onto the national political stage through the famous abduction of Francoise Claustre and the adoption of the fundamental charter. Ever since then, Hissein Habre has textually implemented all decisions dictated by Washington. It was in view of the relations between the two (?capitals) that Hissein Habre systematically boycotted all resolutions and agreements sponsored by the OAU and which are aimed at restoring peace and concored among Chadians.

In fact, that U.S.-French scheme culminated in the dispatching of pan-African troops to Chad with U.S. and French funding.

In violation of the resolutions of the 18th OAU summit in Nairobi calling for the safeguarding of peace and security in Chad, the OAU forces stood at the service of the imperialists. In this connection, they contributed to everyone's notice to the arrival in Ndjamena of Hissein Habre's national annihilation forces. Worse still, the OAU forces (?did not protect) the civilian population running from the national annihilation forces.

At present, the pan-African troops have pulled out. The United States and France have taken over, assigning to themselves zones of military operations where they indulge in the most abject extortions against the civilian population. Several cases of physical torture have been reported in the south of the country where the French troops are operating. The billions earmarked by the two imperialist powers will be used to gag the people in revolt.

And yet, when the socialists recently came to power in France this gave rise to some hope among the Chadian people who had suffered too much from Giscard d'Estaing's Gaullist policy. In his electoral campaign, Mr Mitterrand had stated that France would no longer intervene militarily in Africa.

Now what is the reality in Chad? French troops based in the CAR [words indistinct] the country which aspires to nothing but peace. On the political front, Mr Mitterrand had stated that France would not act in the place of the OAU in the Chadian crisis. The French president himself contributed with Mobutu to the consecration of Hissein Habre at the informal Kinshasa meeting of France and Africa against the will of the Chadian people and the majority of African countries. Is that not a blatant interference in Africa's internal affairs? We are not unduly surprised at this because the French president has stated that if the interests of France as a whole are threatened, there will not be a socialist France, just France. This is why he has assumed the same course of action as the Giscard d'Estaing regime in the Chadian crisis.

ZAIRE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON TORTURE OF PRISONERS

AB011130 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 1 (AFP) -- Most political prisoners in Zaire are held without charge or trial, and are often tortured, the human rights organization Amnesty International said today. In a communique published by its Paris branch, Amnesty said it has been told of those suspected of opposition to the regime of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko being deliberately killed, and of prisoners dying through ill treatment or lack of food and medical care. Amnesty said it had received recent first person accounts from prisoners who had been beaten, given electric shock torture or raped during their detention.

In 1982 the Nobel Peace Prize winning organization said it had learned of the arrest of more than 200 people accused of political opposition in one form or another. Since 1978 more than 100 arrests on average had been reported annually. Most of those arrested were held for weeks or months, and sometimes more than a year, before being released without charge. "Accounts of torture undergone in a military centre in Kinshasa and other places of detention speak of whippings, simulated executions, burning with candles or prisoners being stamped on by guards," Amnesty said.

Amnesty said it had also been told of deliberate murders of suspected opponents of the government by Army units in remote villages of Jubumbashi in southeast Zaire.

In the past two years there had been fewer accounts of deliberate killings by the Army or the police, but cases were still reported of prisoners being killed by guards, Amnesty said.

The report noted that after a visit by Amnesty representatives in July 1981 Zai e has since "broken off the dialogue" and "formally withdrawn" an invitation for a repeat visit.

COMMENTARY PRAISES U.S.-ZAIRE NEGOTIATIONS

AB011342 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1100 GMT 1 Mar 83

[AZAP commentary: "New Horizons for the United States and Zaire"]

[Text] The U.S.-Zairian negotiations, the first phase of which ended on a note of satisfaction in Kinshasa last weekend, have opened a new era in the process of investments in Zaire. They have thus confirmed the guarantees which "the Zairian Investment Code" offers to foreign partners. These negotiations have, in fact, relaunched this sector which has somewhat slackened during the past decade because of the bad situation of the world economy. Our people are aware that the Republic of Zaire has made praiseworthy efforts and overcome sometimes unsurmountable obstacles in the bid to acquire the economic tools capable of accelerating and promoting its total development thanks to bilateral agreements concluded with friendly countries such as the United States.

The present system of world economic development leaves much room for associations which promote -- for the mutual benefit of the parties concerned -- exchanges of techniques of industrialization, production, importation, and exportation of technology and manufactured goods on a basis of frank and sincere cooperation. In view of the excellence of their long and friendly relations, the United States of America has always considered the Republic of Zaire a partner with whom it transacts business in a spirit of mutual understanding. This is why this new bilateral draft agreement on investments is of the greatest interest to the authorities of the two friendly nations. This agreement has aroused optimism concerning the boosting of activities not only within the industrial and commercial enterprises whose production has somewhat slackened [words indistinct] also in new sectors the exploitation of which is becoming increasingly urgent.

It is with optimism that Zaire and the United States are awaiting the second session which will make it possible to finalize the joint orientation of the American investment projects in Zaire and to establish the solid bases that will ensure the exportation of Zairian products to the United States.

Mobutu-Koch Talks 'Fruitful'

AB011235 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1120 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Feb (AZAP) -- President Mobutu on Monday received at Camp Tshatshi Noel Koch, U.S. assistant under secretary for defense in charge of the African section.

The audience enabled a fruitful exchange of views which covered the long history of Zairian-U.S. relations and the need to strengthen them. Problems relating to the security of the African states were also discussed during the audience. Shortly before going to Camp Tshatshi, the U.S. statesmen paid a courtesy call on Kamanda wa Kamanda, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, as well as on Vice Admiral Lomponda wa Botende, secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, with whom he discussed the development of cooperation between Zaire and the United States.

MOBUTU-TOURE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON TALKS

LD011420 Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Kinshasa, March 1, (MAP) -- Hadj Ahmed Sekou Toure and Field-Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, respectively presidents of Guinea and of Zaire, reaffirmed their attachment to the decisions of the 18th Summit Conference of the Organization of African Unity on the Sahara, in Nairobi (1981).

In the joint communique released at the end of the working visit of the Guinean president to Kinshasa, the two heads of state acknowledged that the settlement of the Sahara problem must necessarily go through the referendum called for by the resolutions of the 18th OAU Summit. The communique added that the decisions of the 12 member committee only commit the countries forming the said committee.

The two parties also outlined the right of Chad to participate in the OAU meetings through the government that Chadians have chosen for themselves. It is to be recalled that the OAU has been in a deadlock since February 1982, when the OAU administrative secretary general, Edem Kodjo, had violated the fundamental principles of the OAU Charter by allowing the so-called Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, a puppet state proclaimed by a group of mercenaries, the "Polisario", to sit as member of the pan African organization. This situation led to the abortion of the 19th summit meeting of the OAU scheduled to take place in Tripoli on August 5-9, as Morocco, along with a number of African countries withdrew from the summit to protest against the presence of the "Polisario". After several attempts, it has been decided to hold the second 19th OAU summit in Tripoli November 23-26. But once again, works were stalled because of a controversy over the representation of Chad.

While some African countries supported the delegation representing the legitimate government of Mr Hissein Habre, Libya and its allies supported the delegation of the Libyan backed Goukouni Oueddei.

Then, a 12 member committee was formed to try re-convene the African summit. This committe met in Nairobi on Friday, February 18, and called for the holding of the summit next May or June in Addis Ababa without "pre-requisites". But this decision has been criticized by several African leaders, especially as the committee is formed of a majority of extremist countries whose stance has already contributed to the failure of the Tripoli summit. The twelve countries forming the committee are: Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, Mali, Congo, Libya, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Uganda, Angola, and Lesotho.

LIBERIA-SIERRA LEONE MEDIATION EFFORTS REPORTED

Stevens Not Going to Conakry

AB011156 Paris AFP in English 1146 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Freetown, March 1 (AFP) -- An attempt to settle Liberia's dispute with neighbouring Sierra Leone at a summit meeting today in Conakry, Guinea, appeared in jeopardy as Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens announced that he would not be going. President Stevens accused Liberian head of state Samuel Doe of escalating the original row over a newspaper article by making claims to Sierra Leone territory.

(In Monrovia it was reported that Mr Doe had already left for the summit, officially billed as a meeting of the Mano River Union, which groups Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. The dispute erupted last week when Liberia banned all land, air and sea travel to and from Sierra Leone and move 3,500 troops to the border in protest at an article in a Freetown newspaper which claimed that Mr Doe killed his wife for allegedly attempting to poison him. Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who had urged Mr Doe to exercise restraint in handling the situation, proposed the summit during a visit to Monrovia on Saturday.

(Mr Doe's 22-man party includes his deputy, Major General Nicolas Podier; Foreign Minister Boimah Fahnbulleh and the ministers of justice and defence; as well as the ambassador of Liberia to Sierra Leone, who was recalled to Monrovia last week, and the ambassadors to Liberia of Sierra Leone and Guinea.)

President Stevens' office said he had decided that it would not be in the interest of the people of Sierra Leone for him to meet Mr Doe, even though he had earlier promised President Sekou Toure that he would do so. The official statement said that Mr Doe had extended the original dispute to "a claim of territorial boundaries within Sierra Leone, with all that implies," and President Stevens' felt that "this is a matter he cannot now handle without full consultation with his Cabinet."

In the meantime, the statement said, "President Stevens is warning all Sierra Leone security officers and nationals to do their utmost to implement Commander Doe's directives on the closure of the border." Sources said the Sierra Leone Government was angered by a statement attributed to Mr Doe in last week's communique which was apparently a claim to the Sulima and Sherbro areas on the Sierra Leone side of the border where oil deposits have now been positively located.

The communique mentioned "vast territory purchased in 1850" and quoted Mr Doe as saying he would "rather fight to redeem his people and claim the land." The sources said Sierra Leone had been "taken aback" that despite previously good and friendly relations between Sierra Leone and Liberia Mr Doe should have "made territorial claims to parts of Sierra Leone over a 98-word newspaper article." Political observers here said the claims could lead the government to adopt a harder stance over the episode. Sierra Leone has already arrested the editor of the newspaper concerned.

Sources close to the government also said that the "economics of closing the border should be allowed to work themselves out". They pointed out that Sierra Leone could stand to gain over the move, which would stop the smuggling of agricultural produce like coffee, cocoa, palm oil and cows, refined petrol, gold and diamonds into Liberia, whose currency is tied to the dollar.

Since the closure scarce commodities like palm oil -- which sold at 2.5 leones (about one dollar) a pint -- have suddenly become abundant again on the Sierra Leone market. Palm oil is now a quarter of the previous price.

Guinea Making Mediation Efforts

AB011945 Paris AFP in French 1839 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Monrovia, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Guinea is making another attempt to mediate between Liberia and Sierra Leone in order to solve the crisis between the two countries. In fact, Mr Sekou Toure, president of the Republic of Guinea decided on Tuesday to send Guinean Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui to Freetown for a meeting with Siaka Stevens, president of the Republic of Sierra Leone. This was disclosed by Liberian Foreign Minister Boimah Fahnbulleh.

The minister -- who was a member of Liberian head of state Samuel Doe's delegation -- was returning from Conakry following the failure of an attempted meeting of heads of state of the Mano River Union, which comprises Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Mr Stevens did not attend the meeting. The Sierra Leonian head of state accused Mr Doe of claiming the coastal territorial portion of Sierra Leone, where oil deposits have been discovered. The dispute between Liberia and Sierra Leone followed the publication by a Freetown newspaper of an article saying that Mr Doe had dilled his wife. This led the Liberian head of state to close his border with Sierra Leone.

Communique on Doe Visit

AB012230 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Joint communique issued in Conakry on 1 March after the meeting between Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure and Liberian head of state Samuel Doe]

[Text] On Saturday, 26 Feburay, Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure made a stopover in Monrovia, the capital of the Republic of Liberia, and in Freetown, the capital of the Republic of Sierra Leone. In the interests of the peoples of the Mano River Union, he extended a brotherly invitation to their excellencies Samuel Kanyon Doe of Liberia and Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone to attend a tripartite summit in Conakry aimed at taking all necessary measures in order to settle the crisis which erupted between Sierra Leone and Liberia following the insult made to the Liberian head of state by a Sierra Leonian newspaper.

On Tuesday, 1 March, His Excellency President Samuel Kanyon Doe, accompanied by a high-power delegation of the Liberian Government, arrived in Conakry on a working visit in response to the invitation of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the supreme leader of the revolution. The two parties -- Liberia and Guinea -- deplored the absence of President Siaka Stevens and held the planned working session on behalf of the three peoples of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. During the meeting, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the supreme leader of the revolution, who considers the crisis between the Liberian and the Sieraa Leonian Governments and the resultant measures harmful to the interests of both the Liberian and Sierra Leonian peoples and the cohesion within the Mano River Union, pleaded with His Excellency President Samuel Kanyon Doe and his delegation so the Liberian head of state, his government, and the Liberian people, who have been insulted, will however accept and make the sacrifice of cancelling all restrictive measures taken against Sierra Leone in retaliation for the insult.

In response to the proposals put forward by President Ahmed Sekou Toure, His Excellency President Samuel Kanyon Doe first made it a point to categorically and indignantly deny the intention attributed to him by the Sierra Leonian Government to the effect that he wanted to annex part of the Sierra Leonian territory.

He stated that neither he nor his government have ever had the intention of annexing any part of any country whatsoever. In a show of deep understanding, and in view of President Ahmed Sekou Toure's insistent appeal to leave no stone unturned in order to safeguard the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation between the two peoples of Sierra Leone and Liberia, President Samuel Kanyon Doe expressed his readiness to take into account the appeal made to him by President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure therefore announced the decision to send a delegation led by Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui today, Tuesday, 1 March to meet with His Excellency President Siaka Stevens. He further promised to use his good offices to persuade the Sierra Leonian Government to make official apoligies to the Liberian people, their government, and their head of state in view of the serious harm done to them.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure thanked President Samuel Kanyon Doe for responding to his appeal to come together to find brotherly and friendly solutions to problems of common interest, which shows the openness of the Liberian side to dialogue.

President Samuel Kanyon Doe commended President Ahmed Sekou Toure for his daily efforts aimed at establishing in our subregion, and the Mano River Union, an atmosphere of stability, peace, and friendly consultations in the supreme interest of the brotherly peoples of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea.

Issued in Conakry on 1 March 1983.

Liberian Foreign Minister Optimistic

AB012139 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The foreign minister of Liberia, Dr H. Boimah Fahnbulleh, has expressed optimism that the troubled relation between Liberia and Sierra Leone will be resolved very soon. Speaking at the airport upon his arrival from Guinea, Foreign Minister Fahnbulleh said President Sekou Toure is working very hard to mediate the dispute between the two sides. The Liberian foreign minister said he believed that there is not basic antagonism between the Liberian and Sierra Leone people. He said the absence of President Siaka Stevens from the meeting in Guinea today could be due to the misreading of what he called certain signals. The Liberian foreign minister, who said Liberia is working to resolve the issue through diplomacy and negotiation, also said he was hopeful that the African tradition of compromise will influence the speedy resolution of the matter.

The minister was among four government ministers that accompanied the head of state to Guinea today. In Guinea, President Toure appealed to CIC [commander in chief] Doe to reconsider his government decision to close its border with Sierra Leone. President Toure said he realized that he was asking head of state Doe to make a great sacrifice. But to reopen the border with Sierra Leone will be an honor to Liberia and a contribution to peace within the Mano River Union which binds Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea in economic cooperation. Dr Doe assured President Toure that he would consider the Guinean leader's plea after consulting with the People's Redemption Council.

The head of state also denounced allegations by President Stevens that Liberia had laid claims to Sierra Leonian territory. Dr Doe said the allegation which is gaining ground in Freetown was meant to distract attention from the malicious and erroneous article published in a Sierra Leone newspaper. Commander in Chief Doe said since the Liberian revolution of 1980, his government has made all efforts to maintain close and cordial relations with Sierra Leone. He told President Toure that his government continues to believe in the Mano River Union and will do everything possible to maintain cordial relations with the other states. The talks in Guinea today covered issues related to the Mano River Union, and Liberia and Guinea in particular. Despite of the absence of President Stevens from the meeting today, the talks were reportedly held in a warm and frank atmosphere.

LIBERIA

DOE RETURNS FROM 'REWARDING' GUINEA VISIT

AB011935 Monrovia Radio Elwa in English 1900 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], CIC [Commander in Chief] Dr Samuel K. Doe returned home today after a brief but rewarding visit to the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

Upon his arrival in Conakry, Dr Doe was warmly received by President Toure amidst traditional African hospitality and full military honors, according to an executive mansion release. The Liberian leader and his Guinean counterpart conferred extensively on issues affecting the future of the Mano River Union in general and their respective countries in particular. Although the meeting was held under the auspices of the union, one of its founding members, President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, however, did not attend or send a representative. Nevertheless, the meeting was held in an extremely frank and cordial atmosphere.

After extensive discussion between the two leaders on events that led to the present crisis between Liberia and Sierra Leone, President Toure appealed to the Liberian head of state to reconsider his government's decision regarding the border closure with Sierra Leone for the benefit of the people within the Mano River Union. President Toure told Dr Doe and asked him for a great sacrifice to be made by Liberia "which will be an honor to your country and a contribution to the satisfaction of all of us in the subregion." The head of state assured President Toure that upon his return home, in consultation with the Cabinet and the PRC, his plea will be given consideration.

During the closed door meeting, which was preceded by a civic reception in the hall of the People's Palace, the Liberian leader emphasized in no uncertain terms his government's total rejection of the allegation that Liberia has territorial designs. The reference to territory is considered by the Liberian Government as a total misinterpretation by President Stevens of our press release on the matter, the Liberian leader said. He noted that such allegation, which is now gaining ground in Sierra Leone, is designed to distract public attention from the very unfounded and malicious article that appeared in the prominent newspaper. Dr Doe said such actions may also have the [word indistinct] of damaging Liberia's relation's with her other neighbors. Commander in Chief Doe indicated that since the revolution of 1980, his government has made every effort to maintain cordial relations with Sierra Leone but noted that the response from that country has not been equally cordial. He however told President Toure that his government continues to believe in the Mano River Union and will do everything possible to maintain cordial relations with other states.

S. AFRICA, BOTSWANA TO DISCUSS HERERO EMIGRATION

MB011812 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Talks on the future of about 35,000 Hereros who live in Botswana and want to move to South-West Africa are expected to begin soon between the Governments of South Africa and Botswana.

The chief director in the office of the administrator-general, Mr (John Vial), says a specific date for the talks has not yet been fixed. According to the Herero paramount chief, Mr Kuaima Riruako, the Botswana Government regards the matter as extremely delicate. That is why the government in Gaborone refuses to discuss the issue with the Herero representative authority and insists on the talks being conducted at government level.

ANGOLA

'OBSERVERS' QUOTED ON TALKS WITH S. AFRICA

AB282231 Paris AFP in French 1737 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Luanda, 28 Feb (AFP) -- The Angolan Government desires to reestablish peace along its southern border with Namibia and at the same time officially declares that it has no intention of abandoning its support for SWAPO, observers in Luanda noted on Monday. "This situation is delicate and will by all means bring about tension between the various sides," diplomatic sources indicate, "for it is clear that South Africa is linking the conclusion of an agreement with the halting of military operations by SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma's guerrillas."

On Saturday, Lieutenant Colonel Alexandre Rodrigues Tito, the Angolan minister of interior, stated: "Angola has no intention of being a substitute for SWAPO. This has to be clear." In addition, this member of the ruling MPLA-Labor Party's Central Committee said "that SWAPO has already made quite a revolutionary gesture by agreeing to sit down at the negotiating table in Geneva side by side with internal Namibian parties. This gesture signifies that SWAPO is ready for the holding of elections in Namibia with the internal parties."

Within the framework of these negotiations, it is worthwhile to note, diplomatic sources indicate, that at the time when Pretoria and Luanda announced their intention to resume talks, the Namibian liberation movement claimed to be launching a general offensive. Mr Tito admitted in his press conference that the South Africans did not send a ministerial-level delegation to Praia (Cape Verde), because of SWAPO's latest offensive. The interior minister then added: "We believe that South Africa is going to continue to intensify its activities against Angola before the next meeting (with a delegation from Pretoria). But Angola will not postpone the coming negotiations even if South African troops continue with their military activities against its territory."

Observers stress that up to now SWAPO raids into Namibian territory have always been followed by reprisal military operations on Angolan territory.

It must be noted that the Angolan minister deplored the lack of solidarity of certain countries with SWAPO, the observers indicate.

Finally, according to Angolan sources, it is improbable that SWAPO on its own took the risk of compromising the Praia negotiations by launching its offensive at a time when the desire of Angolans to reestablish peace is not doubted.

COMOROS

PRESIDENT RECEIVES VISITING SOVIET AMBASSADOR

AB011215 Paris AFP in French 1048 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Moroni, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Mikhail Orlov, the Soviet ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles who is now on a working visit to the Comoros, was received in Moroni on Monday by Ahmed Abdallah, president of the Federal and Islamic Republic of the Comoros. According to a reliable source, the discussions centered on the bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and the Comoros. Mr Orlov will be received on Tuesday by Prime Minister Ali Mroudjae.

MOZAMBIQUE

PRESIDENT MACHEL ARRIVES IN MOSCOW 1 MARCH

For USSR reportage of the visit to the Soviet Union by Mozambique President Samora Moises Machel, see the Sub-Saharan Africa section of the 1 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SWAZILAND

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS 1983-84 BUDGET

MB020724 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The minister for finance, Mr J.L.F. Simelane, today presented a 183.6 million emalangeni budget to the House of Parliament for the 1983-84 financial year. In his budget speech to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Swaziland, the minister for finance pointed out to members of Parliament that this year's budget was less than the level forecast originally for the 1982-83 budget. Mr Simelane said after very careful scrutiny of the departmental projects and proposals, a total of 105.1 million emalangeni has been allocated to meet the current cost of government, which he said was an increase of about 10.7 percent over last year's approved provision. The minister told the House that this may appear substantial in view of the fact that no salary review provision was required for the 1983-84 financial year.

The finance minister regretted in telling the House that examination of the impact of sales tax and work on the necessary legislation was well underway [as heard] and said that he hoped to present the House with draft legislation during the course of the coming financial year. Mr Simelane said if the legislation was approved it will contribute substantially to the construction of a sound base for long-term growth of government revenue. The finance minister told the House that no revenue can be expected from the sugar export levy until sugar prices recover very substantially from their present low levels.

Deficit Figure Questioned

MB020634 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 1 Mar 83 pp 1, 16

[By James Dlamini]

[Excerpt] MP's yesterday questioned the accuracy of the E8 million budget deficit figure announced at the official opening of Parliament on Friday.

They said the speech read on behalf of the queen regent in Parliament was not the one initially prepared by Cabinet.

This initial speech is understood to have been the version read by SBS [Swaziland Broadcasting System] on Friday evening's news broadcast. The SBS version was different in some aspects from the speech read in Parliament by Education Minister Cannon Siphetse Dlamini.

MP's also said rumours were circulating that the deficit figure read in Parliament is not the same as the figure in the minister of finance's budget speech which will be tabled today.

ZAMBIA

METALS DELIVERY TO EAST BLOC NATIONS HALTED

AB011134 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Lusaka, March 1 (AFP) -- Zambia, in the grip of a serious shortage of foreign exchange, has stopped delivering metals to some Eastern-bloc countries which cannot pay in hard currency. Among those affected is Romania, which has had a consignment of 100 tons of zinc held up. Zambia produces copper, cobalt and zinc for export.

The suspension of some deliveries was reported here by THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA newspaper, which quoted a Tanzania-based official of the state-owned Metal Marketing Corporation (Memaco). Tanzania's capital, Dar es Salaam, is a major port for Zambian metal exports. The official, Ronald Kabaso, said: "We are given specific instructions by Memaco not to ship to some Eastern bloc countries because they are not ready to pay us in foreign exchange."

In January Zambia suspended payment of principal on medium and long-term foreign debt--estimated at some 1,200 million kwachai (about the same in dollars), about a third of GNP -- because of hard-currency shortages caused mainly by low world prices for copper. That metal accounts for about 95 percent of Zambia's export revenue.

PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO VISIT U.S. 29 MARCH

MB02749 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] President Kaunda has accepted an invitation from President Ronald Reagan to visit the United States at the end of this month. Confirming this today, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said President Kaunda's official working visit to Washington DC will start on 29 March. He will meet and have (?lunch) with President Reagan on 30 March.

ZIMBABWE

MINISTER TALKS OF POSSIBLE CHARGES AGAINST NKOMO

AB011143 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, March 1 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe's home affairs (interior) minister has given details of possible charges against opposition leader Joshua Nkomo that are being investigated by police. The minister, Herbert Ushewokunze, told THE CHRONICLE newspaper in Mr Nkomo's home city of Bulawayo last night that police were probing whether the 65-year-old politician had made false statements likely to cause alarm and despondency.

This appeared to refer to Mr Nkomo's repeated assertions that the Zimbabwe Army was killing hundreds of innocent civilians in its drive against renegade former Nkomo guerrillas in the south-western province of Matabeleland. Arousing alarm and despondency through false statements is an offense under Zimbabwe's wide-ranging security legislation.

Mr Ushewokunze also said Mr Nkomo was being investigated on suspicion of contravening the precious minerals act by dealing in emeralds. The minister gave no further details of this allegation, but Mr Nkomo was reported in March 1982 to have bought an emerald mine in September 1980 which he and a partner worked until March 1981.

In addition, the home affairs minister said, Mr Nkomo was being investigated for failing to declare 300 Zimbabwe dollars (about the same U.S.) he had in his luggage when he tried to leave Bulawayo airport February 19 on a foreign trip. He was turned around, his passport confiscated and he was held for six hours before being released.

Following the opening of inquiries, police told Mr Nkomo last weekend that he should not leave his Bulawayo house without telephoning them. The opposition leader's lawyer, Bruce Longhurst, said yesterday that he was asking police to relax the directive so Mr Nkomo would have to report only movements outside Bulawayo.

Mr Ushewokunze was quoted as saying that Mr Nkomo "would be advised, if he is not going to be labeled as a fugitive from justice, to comply with the police requirements....

It must be remembered that he had wanted to leave the country without informing the police, which in itself would cause the police to draw certain adverse inferences as to the reason for his departure".

Mr Nkomo said he had intended going to Prague for a meeting of the World Peace Council, via Johannesburg and London. The government charged that he wanted to address a series of press conferences in white-ruled South Africa, considered hostile to Zimbabwe, about the killings in Matabeleland, which have been confirmed by witness reports gathered by foreign journalists. Mr Ushewokunze said last night that "we have reports right now that he and (former white premier) Ian Smith are featuring on South African television saying things that are calculated to bring the Republic of Zimbabwe into disrepute".

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, a longtime rival of Mr Nkomo's who fired him from the Cabinet one year ago, alleged last week that Mr Nkomo was seeking the "active support" of Pretoria in destabilizing Zimbabwe. Mr Nkomo denies this.

"In Johannesburg, officials in charge of programmes at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) said the television had not done its own interview with Mr Nkomo but had screened one at the weekend bought from London-based Visnews. The SABC had also shown a documentary on the situation in Zimbabwe by West German television, which had sections on Mr Nkomo, the officials said.)